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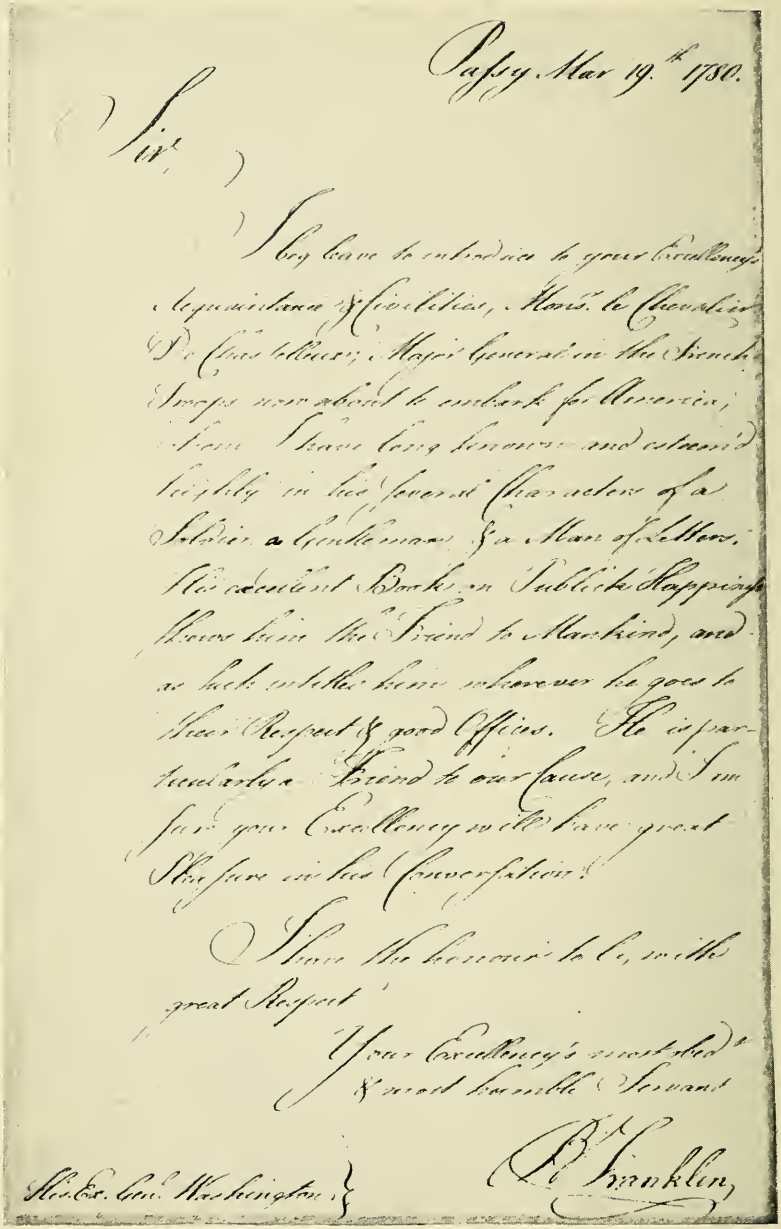
GEORGE WASHINGTON
BICENTENNIAL EDITION

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON



Passy. Mar 19th 1780.

Sir,

I beg leave to introduce to your Excellency's Acquaintance & Civilities, Monsr. le Chevalier De Chastellux, Major General in the French Troops now about to embark for America, whom I have long known and esteem'd highly in his several Characters of a Soldier, a Gentleman & a Man of Letters. His excellent Books on Publick Happiness have been the Friend to Mankind, and as such entitle him wherever he goes to your Respect & good Offices. He is particularly a Friend to our Cause, and I am sure your Excellency will have great Satisfaction in his Conversation.

I have the honour to be, with great Respect

Your Excellency's most obedt & most humble Servant

B. Franklin

His Ex. Genl. Washington.

Letter from Benjamin Franklin to Washington from Passy, France, Introducing Chevalier de Chastellux

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THE WRITINGS OF

George Washington

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1780

Page

To the Board of War, February 10 1
Arrangement of Artificers—Recruiting the corps.

General Orders, February 10 2

General Orders, February 11 3

To Brigadier General James Clinton, February 12 . . 4
Defects in his brigade—Loss of arms, etc.—Waiters—Returns—Clothing.

General Orders, February 12 5

To Major General Arthur St. Clair, February 12 . . 6
Failure of British to surprise him—Extension of patrols.

General Orders, February 13 7

To the President of Congress, February 14 8
Fires at West Point.

To Colonel Henry Jackson, February 14 9
Ownership of arms.

To Chevalier de La Luzerne, February 15 10
Weakness of Army—Covering party for wood cutters.

To Joseph Reed, February 15 11
Election to the American Philosophical Society.

To the Board of War, February 15 12
State quotas of troops—Returns.

To Major General William Heath, February 15 . . . 13
Returns of troops.

To Colonel Stephen Moylan, February 15 14
Returns of his regiment.

To Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Flower, February 15 . 15
Returns of his regiment.

General Orders, February 15 15

General Orders, February 16 16

Page

To Major General William Heath, February 16 . . . 17
Fires at West Point—Major Hull's rank—Surprise of an outpost at White Plains.

To Colonel Stephen Moylan, February 16 18
Location of cavalry.

To Governor Thomas Jefferson, February 16 . . . 19

To the North Carolina Delegates in Congress, February 17 20
Clothing for troops.

To the President of Congress, February 17 20

General Orders, February 17 22

General Orders, February 18 22

To Major General Nathanael Greene, February 18 . . 23
Transportation of clothing.

To Baron Steuben, February 18 23
Returns—Disaster to the *Confederacy*.

To the Board of War, February 18 25
Armand's command—Von Heer's corps.

To Francis Lewis, February 19 26
Marine prisoners at New York.

To Major General William Heath, or Officer Commanding the Highlands, February 19 27
Returns of troops.

To Abraham Skinner, February 19 28
Exchange matters.

To Governor William Livingston, February 19 . . . 28
Enlistment complaints and Judge Symmes's interference—Grant of a gratuity by Congress—Inexpediency of state interference.

To Governor Thomas Sim Lee, February 19 31
Artillery arrangement.

To Charles Pettit, February 19 32
Form of a certificate.

General Orders, February 19 32

General Orders, February 20 34

To Colonel Goose Van Schaick, February 20 35
Returns.

Page

Circular to the States, February 20 35
Quotas of troops.

To James Wilkinson, February 20 38
Clothing supply—Estimates.

To Colonel Stephen Moylan, February 21 39
Return of troops.

To Major Henry Lee, or Officer Commanding His Corps, February 21 39
Return of troops.

To Major Levin Winder, February 22. 40
British horses removed from Staten Island.

To Lieutenant Colonel Marinus Willett, February 22 . 40
Secret service—Protection of a spy—Agent at Secaucus—Written reports needed.

To Major General William Heath, February 22 . . . 42
British horses removed from Staten Island.

To Major General Arthur St. Clair, February 22 . . 42
Enterprise against Powles Hook.

To John Cleves Symmes, February 22 43
Interference of state and Congress powers—Enlistment troubles.

To Brigadier General Enoch Poor, or Officer Commanding at Danbury, February 22 44
Readiness to receive the enemy.

To Colonel Christopher Greene, February 22 . . . 44
Returns.

To the President of Congress, February 23 45
The King's speech.

To the Board of War, February 23 45
Swords for non-commissioned officers.

To Major General Arthur St. Clair, February 23 . . 46
Delay of the project.

To President Joseph Reed, February 23 46
Lack of clothing—State supplies.

General Orders, February 23 47

General Orders, February 24 48

To Captain Joshua Trafton, February 24 48

Page

To Major General Arthur St. Clair, February 24 . . 49
Failure of an enterprise—His presence necessary.

To Doctor Philip Turner, February 24 49
State of the Medical Department.

To Major General Nathanael Greene, February 25 . . 50
Alarming state of the forage.

To the Board of War, February 26 51
Court-martial powers.

To Major General Nathanael Greene, February 26 . . 52
The forage supply.

To Governor Jonathan Trumbull, February 26 . . . 53
Troop returns.

To Governor William Livingston, February 26 . . . 53
Troop deficiency.

To William Fitzhugh, February 26 54
Exchange of his son—The situation.

To the Board of War, February 27. 54
Troop deficiencies—Lieutenant Colonel Connolly.

To Major General Benjamin Lincoln, February 27 . . 55
Lincoln's situation—Spanish successes in Florida—Virginia troops sent south.

To Juan de Miralles, February 27 57
Intelligence from Havana—British in the Carolinas—Will keep Miralles informed.

General Orders, February 28 59

General Orders, February 29 59

To Baron de Kalb, February 29 60
To take St. Clair's place.

To Lewis Pintard, February 29 60
Exchange matters.

To Baron von Knyphausen, February 29 61
Exchange negotiations.

To Major General William Phillips, February 29 . . 62
Meeting of exchange commissioners.

To Brigadier General John Stark or Officer Commanding His Brigade, February 62
Bad state of his brigade—Returns.

Page

To Colonel Thomas Craig, March 1 63
Pardon of Lieutenant Armstrong.

General Orders, March 1 64

General Orders, March 2 65

To Colonel Joseph Ward, March 2 66
Good wishes.

To Fielding Lewis, March 2 66
Colonel Fairfax's affairs.

To Major General William Heath or Officer Commanding the Highlands, March 2 67
Discharges and furloughs of officers—Mistake in subaltern arrangement.

To Major General William Heath, March 2 68
Captain Cartwright.

To John Beatty, March 2 68
British officers permitted to go to New York.

To the Board of War, March 3 69
Arrangement of the Massachusetts subalterns.

General Orders, March 3 69

General Orders, March 4 70

To James Lovell, March 4 70
Thanks for intelligence.

To Lord Stirling, March 5 71
Inattention to orders—Example of officers—Inspections—Value of proper returns—Lax discipline.

To Governor Thomas Jefferson, March 5 74
Detroit expedition.

General Orders, March 6 75

To the Board of War, March 6 75
Supplies from France—Swords for non-commissioned officers.

To Baron Steuben, March 6 76
His health—Returns—Reserve arms—Cavalry—Combining mustering and inspection departments.

To Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Flower, March 6 . . 79
Artillery artificers enlistments—Bounty.

Page

To Ensign William Spencer, March 6 80
Leave of absence.

To the President of Congress, March 6 80

General Orders, March 7 80

To Major General Robert Howe, March 7 81
Express riders—Information for the enemy: State quotas—Magazines—Money.

To Major General Arthur St. Clair and Lieutenant Colonels Edward Carrington and Alexander Hamilton, March 7 84
Commission as exchange commissioners.

To John Cleves Symmes, March 7 85

To the Board of War, March 8 85
Cavalry returns—Equipment of dragoons—Clothing.

Instructions to Major General Arthur St. Clair and Lieutenant Colonels Edward Carrington and Alexander Hamilton, March 8 87
Exchange negotiations.

To Major General Nathanael Greene, March 8 . . . 89
Quartermaster department difficulties.

To Colonel Goose Van Schaick, March 8 89
Court-martial matters.

To Colonel Stephen Moylan, March 8 90
Condition of cavalry—A court-martial.

To Major Benjamin Tallmadge, March 8 91
New Jersey's interference with furloughs—Clothing.

To the President of Congress, March 6–8 92
Spanish expedition from Havana—Cedar River hostages—Distress of the Quartermaster Department—General Irvine—Supplies from the States.

General Orders, March 8 95

General Orders, March 9 96

To Major General Nathanael Greene, March 9 . . . 96
Supplies for the campaign—Horses—Campaign on the North River—Boats.

To Major General Alexander McDougall, March 9 . . 98
His returns to the Army.

Page

To Colonel Joseph Cilley, or Officer Commanding General Poor's Brigade, March 9 98
Court-martial of Isaac Tichenor.

To Brigadier General Jacob Bayley, March 9 99
His court-martial.

To Juan de Miralles, March 9 100
A British transport.

To James Gray, March 9 100
A court-martial.

To Governor William Livingston, March 10 101
New Jersey men in Continental dragoons—European affairs.

To Governor Thomas Sim Lee, March 10 102
Dragoons—Mrs. Chamier's furniture.

General Orders, March 10 102

To Major General Robert Howe, March 10–11 . . . 103
Orders to General Poor for managing West Point—chain of light parties—Position of an outpost.

General Orders, March 11 105

To Major General Robert Howe, March 11 105
Intelligence of an intended British attempt on West Point.

To Major General Robert Howe, March 11 106
British movements—Militia—Chance of West Point being the objective.

To Baron de Kalb, March 11 107
Water guards—Militia light horse—Signals.

General Orders, March 12 108

To Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs, March 12 . . . 109
Request his return to camp.

General Orders, March 13 109

To Colonel John Mehelm, March 13 110
Shoes, hides, and Mr. Taylor's conduct.

To the Board of War, March 14 111
Offensive operations from Fort Pitt; Supplies.

To Colonel Daniel Brodhead, March 14 111
Natchez and English settlements on the Mississippi—Detroit expedition—Supplies—Disapproval of a court-martial sentence—Boats.

Page

To Mottin Augustin de La Balme, March 14 113
Certificate of service.

General Orders, March 14 114

To the Board of Admiralty, March 15 114
General Arnold's offer to command a marine expedition—Troops as marines.

To Brigadier General Jacob Bayley, March 15 . . . 115
Intelligence from Canada—Raising of volunteers—Indian youth at Dartmouth College.

To John Beatty, March 15 116
Exchange matter.

To Baron de Kalb, March 16 117
Bedkin's corps—Change of cantonment.

To Colonel Josiah Starr and Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Sherman, March 16 117
Officers' clothing—Efforts to aid the Connecticut line.

To Lieutenant Colonel Udny Hay, March 16 . . . 118
Express riders.

To Governor William Livingston, March 16 119
Captain Fitzrandolph.

General Orders, March 16 120

To the President of Congress, March 17 121
Scarcity of provisions—Want of meat.

To Marquis de Lafayette, March 18 122
Failure of letters—Looking to Europe—Movements of the two armies.

To Azariah Dunham, March 18 125
Wheat and grain at mills.

General Orders, March 19 126

To Colonel John Gunby, March 19 126
Virginia clothing for officers.

To John Moylan, March 19 127
Clothing for Crane's Artillery.

To the President of Congress, March 20 127
Requests proceedings in the case of General Arnold.

To the Board of War, March 20 128
Arrangement of subalterns of the Eighth Massachusetts Regiment.

Page

To John Mitchell, March 20 128
Making of a chariot.

To Baron de Kalb, March 21 129
Guard boats—Dangerous stations—Removal of stock.

To Major General Robert Howe, March 21 131
Measures to protect West Point—The chain—Stony and Verplancks Points—Clothing.

General Orders, March 21 133

General Orders, March 22 134

To Philip Schuyler, March 22 137
Stagnation of affairs—New systems in the Commissary and Quartermaster departments.

To Major General Nathanael Greene, March 22. . . 138
Depositories of provision and forage.

To Brigadier General Enoch Poor, or Officer Commanding at Danbury, March 22. 139
Monthly returns.

To Lord Stirling, March 22 139
New Jersey recruiting act—Instructions for recruiting officers—Continental bounties and emoluments.

To Colonel Otho Holland Williams, March 22 . . . 141
Trial of Mr. Randall.

General Orders, March 23 141

To the President of Congress, March 23 145
British in the south.

To Major Nicholas Fish, March 23 146
Issuance of General Orders.

General Orders, March 24 147

To Colonel Francis Johnston, March 24 147
Pursuit of deserters.

To Baron de Kalb, March 25 148
Confidence in his vigilance—Alarm signal.

To the Board of War, March 25 148
Courts-martial—Confirmation of sentences—Dragoon saddles—Cavalry orders—Provision scarcity.

To Governor Jonathan Trumbull, March 25 150
Recruiting—Starvation—Money value.

Page

To Major General Nathanael Greene, March 26 . . 151
Defects of supply system—Aid for the South.

To the President of Congress, March 26 152
Estimate of provision needed—Congress's requisition inadequate—No means of making good a deficiency in the supply—Such power should be conferred—Transportation difficulties—Need of a central authority—Need of green pasturage.

To Daniel Putnam, March 26 157
General Putnam's health.

To Major General Nathanael Greene, March 26 . . . 157
Aid for the south—Means of moving the army.

To Royal Flint, March 26 158
Supplies.

To John Trumbull, March 26 159
Certificate of his services.

Circular to the States, March 26 159
Specific supply act of Congress.

General Orders, March 26 160

General Orders, March 27 162

To Brigadier General Louis Le Bèque du Portail, March 27 163
To go to Charleston.

To the President of Congress, March 27 163
Du Portail ordered south.

Council of War, March 27 164

To Colonel Stephen Moylan, March 27 167
Clothing and accoutrements.

To Nehemiah Hubbard, March 27 167
Dragoon accoutrements from the Board of War.

To Baron Von Knyphausen, March 27 168
Mr. Pintard's parole.

To the President of Congress, March 28 169
Indian raids—Defeat of Spanish fleet off Gibraltar—Voluntary enlistments and bounties.

To Major General William Heath, March 28 . . . 171
Need of recruits—Clothing.

Page

To Governor William Greene, March 28 172
His request for a Continental regiment.

To Major General Benedict Arnold, March 28 . . . 173
Troops for his marine expedition—Leave of absence.

To Doctor Isaac Foster, March 28 174
Officers' clothing.

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, March 29 . 175
Recruiting in Connecticut—Recruiting officers.

To Lieutenant Colonel Pierre Regnier, March 29 . . 176
Certificate of service.

General Orders, March 29 176

To John Mitchell, March 30 177
Purchase of a chariot.

To Major General Benjamin Lincoln, March 30 . . . 178
Introducing Du Portail.

To the Board of War, March 30 179
Dragoons ordered south.

To John Mathews, March 30 180
Some derangement of the enemy's plans—Reported arrivals of ships from the south—An embarkation probable.

To Major General Robert Howe, March 30 181
Reenforcement for West Point—Resignations.

To Brigadier General Poor, or Officer Commanding His Brigade, March 30 182
New Hampshire troops to move to West Point.

To Colonel Thaddeus Kosciuszko, March 30 . . . 182
Forwarding the Works at West Point—Shoes.

To Lieutenant Colonel Ezra Newhall, March 30 . . 183
Furloughs.

To the Commanding Officer of Lee's Corps, March 30 . 183
March south.

General Orders, March 31 184

To Philip Schuyler, March 31 185
Danger of writing private sentiments—Anxiety on account of the southern operations—Another embarkation of the enemy in progress.

To Colonel Seth Warner, March 31 187
Recruiting money—Clothing.

Page

To the President of Congress, March 31 188
Exchange commissioners at Amboy—Intelligence of the Minister of France—Negotiations opened on the suggestion—The information erroneous—The Convention prisoners—Advantage to the British of an exchange.

Formation of the Continental Army Under the Immediate Comd. of the Comr. in Chief for the Campaign of 1780 190

To the Board of Treasury, April 1 192
Proof of enlistment terms.

To Major General Robert Howe, April 1 193
Poor's brigade for West Point.

To Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Temple, April 1 . . 193
His transfer—Visit to Virginia—Recruiting.

To Mrs. Mary Auchmuty, April 1 194
Mr. Auchmuty's permission to go into New York.

Council of War, April 1 195

To President Joseph Reed, April 1 196
Memorial of officers.

General Orders, April 1 196

General Orders, April 2 196

To the President of Congress, April 2 197
British to push operations in the south—Weak condition of the American Army—Movement of troops as a threat—Detachment proposed for the south—Route and suggestions.

To Major General Nathanael Greene, April 2 . . . 200
Detachment for the south—Arrangement necessary.

To Major General Arthur St. Clair, April 2 201
Exchange negotiation—Governor Hamilton—Violators of parole—Chaplains.

To Baron Steuben, April 2 202
His propositions for the arrangement of the Army—Present crisis perplexing beyond description—Situation of the additional regiments—Anxiety for affairs at the south—Detachments for the south—Gloomy prospects—French minister's visit to camp.

To Baron de Kalb, April 2 205
To go to the south.

To Brigadier General Mordecai Gist, April 2 . . . 205
Troops to be in readiness to march.

Page

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, April 3 . 206
Recruiting expenses.

To Colonel Elias Dayton, April 3 206
Payment for provisions seized.

To the President of Congress, April 3 207
Corps unconnected with State lines—Their anomalous condition—If no provision can be made, they may be dissolved, and incorporated with State regiments—Results if their present state is neglected—General situation of the Army—At no time has dissatisfaction been more general or alarming—Specific supplies—Patriotic virtue of officers and men have alone preserved the Army from dissolution—Different treatment of the crisis by the States—Evil effects—Further discriminations to be made—General plan needed.

General Orders, April 3 212

To the Board of War, April 3 212
Mode of obtaining supplies—Signals for vessels.

General Orders, April 4 214

To Baron de Kalb, April 4 215
To take charge of the troops to march south.

To John Beatty, April 4 216
Major Harnage and Captain Hawker.

To Deputy Governor Jebez Bowen, April 4 216
Intelligence from Bilboa.

To Governor Jonathan Trumbull, April 4 217
Recruiting—Completion of quota.

To Juan de Miralles, April 4 218
Sailing of British expedition.

To Colonel Stephen Moylan, April 5 219
Doctor Shippen's court-martial.

To Colonel Azariah Dunham, April 5 219
Alarming state of the meat supply.

To Governor George Clinton, April 5 220
Posting of the militia.

General Orders, April 5 211

To Cornet Peregrine Fitzhugh, April 5 222
His exchange.

General Orders, April 6 222

Page

To the President of Congress, April 7 226
British detachment sailed from New York—Its destination.

To the Board of War, April 7 227
Alarming state of provision supply.

To Colonel Zebulon Butler, April 7 228
Indian raid at Wyoming.

To Colonel Ephraim Blaine, April 7 229
Lack of meat.

To Colonel Azariah Dunham, April 7 230
Lack of provisions.

To Captain Bernard Ward, April 7 230
His wife and goods.

To Abraham Skinner, April 7 231
Nicholas Dean.

To Governor Richard Caswell, April 7 231
Depository of specific supplies.

General Orders, April 7 232

General Orders, April 8 233

To John Mitchell, April 8 233
The chariots.

To the Board of War, April 9 234
Captain McLane's promotion—Major Lee's plan—Deserters.

To Sir James Jay, April 9 237
Need of liquid for secret writing.

To Colonel James Wood, April 9 237
Conduct of British officers—Their request.

To the Officer Commanding Lee's Corps, April 9 . . 238
To march for South Carolina at once.

To President Joseph Reed, April 9 239
Places of deposit of specific supplies.

General Orders, April 9 239

General Orders, April 10 240

To the President of Congress, April 10 241
Admiral Rodney's victory.

To William Ellery, April 10 241
A regiment to be stationed in Rhode Island.

Page

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, April 10 . 242
Prisoners to be sent into New York.

To Brigadier General Henry Knox, April 10 243
Artillery to accompany Maryland troops.

To Samuel Allison, April 10 243
His complaint.

To Brigadier General Mordecai Gist, April 10 . . . 244
March of the Maryland troops.

To Major William Perkins, April 10 244
Removal of cannon and ordnance stores.

To the Commanding Officer of Lee's Corps, April 10 . 245
Samuel Allison's complaint.

To Lund Washington, April 11 246
Chancery suit with James Mercer—Papers, etc.

To Colonel Goose Van Schaick, April 11 247
An enlisted slave.

General Orders, April 11 248

General Orders, April 12 249

To Major General Nathanael Greene, April 12 . . . 250
Colonel Gunby's demand for a wagon.

To Brigadier General Samuel Holden Parsons, April 12 . 250
Clothing.

To Henry Champion, April 12 251
Distress of the Army for meat—Requests his aid.

To President Joseph Reed, April 12 252
Places of deposit of specific supplies.

To Governor George Clinton, April 12 253
Indian raids—Militia to protect the frontiers.

To Colonel Christopher Greene, April 12 254
Disapproval of a court-martial sentence.

General Orders, April 13 255

To Major General Robert Howe, April 13 255
Alarm signals—British fleet—Fascines and gabions—March of Massachusetts recruits—Expenses of recruiting officers.

To Major General Robert Howe, April 13 257
Rumor of Washington going south—Howe's wish to go.

Page

To Major Henry Lee, April 13 258
Delay in his march—Court-martial of a prisoner.

To John Mercereau, April 13 259
Secret service arrangements.

General Orders, April 14 260

General Orders, April 15 260

To Governor Thomas Jefferson, April 15 262
Clothing for the Virginia troops.

To Major General Benjamin Lincoln, April 15 . . . 263
The expedition against St. Augustine—Clinton's arrival in South Carolina—Advices from New York point to a further embarkation—Solicitude for Charleston—De Kalb sent with troops to his assistance—Specific supplies.

To Governor John Rutledge, April 15 265

To the Magistrates of New Jersey, April 15 266
Their readiness to aid—Distress of the Army for food—Need of teams—Embarrassments from depreciated currency.

To Jonathan Williams, April 15 267
Thanks for wine.

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, April 16 . 267
Intelligence.

General Orders, April 16 268

General Orders, April 17 268

To the President of Congress, April 17 269
March of Maryland troops south—The Penobscot expedition impracticable—Need of a fleet.

To the President of Congress, April 17 272
Artillery ordered south—Rank in the artillery—State artillery in South Carolina.

To Major General William Heath, April 17 274
Recruiting officers — Expenses — Enlistment details — Continental bounty—Marine captures.

To Brigadier General Henry Knox, April 17 . . . 276
Blank cartridges.

To the Board of War, April 18 277
Artillery arrangement.

To Major General Benjamin Lincoln, April 18 . . . 279
Employment of Chevalier Dubuysson.

Page

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, April 18 . 279
Shoes and shirts.

To Colonel Stephen Moylan, April 18 280
Major Bull—Cavalry supplies at Springfield.

To Colonel Elisha Sheldon, April 18 280
Lack of recruiting money—Bounty to officers—Cavalry equipment.

General Orders, April 18 281

To Ezekiel Cheever, April 18 282
Cavalry equipment.

To James Bull, April 18 283
Clothing for dragoons.

General Orders, April 19 283

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, April 19 . 284
Service of the militia horse.

To Governor William Livingston, April 19 284
Captain Craig's militia horse.

General Orders, April 20 285

To Brigadier General Peter Muhlenberg 285
Rendezvous for recruits and drafts—General directions.

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, April 20 . 287
Escort for the French Minister.

To Colonel William Davies, April 20 288
Arrangement of officers gone south—Deputy adjutant generalcy—Collecting recruits—Pay of Virginia officers.

To Colonel James Wood, April 20 290
Court-martial sentences.

General Orders, April 21 290

To Colonel Alexander Scammell, April 21 291
Colonel Dayton's regiment.

To Doctor William Brown, April 22 291
The sick at Petersburg.

General Orders, April 22 292

To Major John Burrowes, April 22 292
Flour guard.

To Lucas Van Beaverhout, April 22 293
His invitation.

Page

To Nicholas Cruger, April 22 293
His request.

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, April 23 . 293
His visit to camp.

To the Board of War, April 23 294
Sale of boats and tar—Tents for Colonel Brodhead.

General Orders, April 23 295

General Orders, April 24 295

General Orders, April 25 296

General Orders, April 26 297

To James Bowdoin, April 26 298
Constitution of Massachusetts.

To Lieutenant Colonel John Laurens, April 26 . . . 298
The loss of the bar involves the loss of the town and garrison of South Carolina—A British embarkation for the south—Intentions of the enemy—Washington cannot come south.

To Chevalier de La Luzerne, April 26 301
Miralles's illness.

To Colonel Goose Van Schaick, April 27 301
Indian ravages—Maryland and Delaware men to be forwarded south.

To Major John Burrowes, April 27 302
Wagons for moving stores.

To the Board of War, April 27 302
Captains Schott's and Selin's companies.

To Abraham Skinner, April 27 302
Exchange of Captain Fitzrandolph.

To Chevalier de La Luzerne, April 27 303
Condition of Miralles.

To Governor Jonathan Trumbull, April 27 303
Artillery recruiting.

To Major Moses Knapp, April 27 304
Reenlistments into artillery and cavalry.

To Governor William Livingston, April 27 304
Exchange matters—Colonel Billop and Captain Fitzrandolph.

General Orders, April 27 305

Page

To Major General Benjamin Lincoln, April 28 . . . 306
Anxiety for Charleston—Sailing of a British fleet from New York—Maryland troops marching south.

To Major General Robert Howe, April 28 308
Distresses of the Army—A demonstration against the enemy—Fascines and gabions—Supplies for the main Army not to be diverted—State of the arsenals.

To President Joseph Reed, April 28 309
Difficulty in collecting the specific supplies—Representation of Pennsylvania field officers—Enlistments and drafts—Provision for officers—Making good the losses through depreciation of the currency.

To the President of Congress, April 28 312
Death of Miralles.

To the President of Congress, April 28 313
Colonel Ward's appointment as Commissary of Prisoners.

General Orders, April 28 313

General Orders, April 29 314

General Orders, April 30 315

To Colonel John Bailey, April 30 316
Resignation.

To Governor Diego José de Navarro, April 30 . . . 316
Death of Miralles.

To James W. Watson, May 1 317
Purchase of rum and hay—Places of deposit.

To Captain Jeremiah Ballard, May 1 318
Flour at Brunswick.

General Orders, May 1 318

General Orders, May 2 319

To Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton, May 2 . 320
Letter from Doctor Gordon.

To Baron Steuben, May 2 320
Appointment of Washington's nephew.

To Brigadier General Henry Knox, May 2 321
Deficiencies in ordnance department.

General Orders, May 3 321

To Reverend William Gordon, May 3 322
Hamilton's answer—Charges—European assistance—Congress' plan of finance.

Page

To Abraham Skinner, May 3 323
Exchange of Lieutenant Colonel Connolly.

General Orders, May 4 324

To the Board of War, May 4 325
Exchange of Lieutenant Colonels Ramsay and Connolly.

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, May 4 . . 326
Expected move of British.

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, May 4 . . 326
Unnecessary to march.

To Henry Champion, May 4 327
Arrival of cattle.

To Governor Thomas Sim Lee, May 4 327
Exchange of officers.

To David Finney, May 5 328
Thanks for dimity.

To the President of Congress, May 5 329
French reenforcements at Martinique—Agent for prisoners—Money needed for the military chest—John Paul Jones.

To the Board of War, May 5 331
Massachusetts subaltern arrangement.

To Major General Robert Howe, May 5 332
Major Bauman's experiments—Gloomy prospects of meat—Flour—Colonel Gouvion—News from the south.

To Chevalier de La Luzerne, May 5 334
His visit to camp.

To Barbé Marbois, May 5 335
His visit to camp.

To Fielding Lewis, May 5 336

General Orders, May 5 336

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, May 6 . . 336
Conduct of Brigade Major McCormick.

General Orders, May 6 337

To Major William Perkins, May 6 338
Removal of ordnance and stores from Rhode Island.

To Deputy Governor Jabez Bowen, May 6 338
Removal of stores.

Page

General Orders, May 7 339

General Orders, May 8 339

To the Board of War, May 8 339
Muskets and bayonets.

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, May 8 . . 340
Major Troup's conduct.

To Isaac Woodruff, May 8 340
Infringement of the civil power.

To Marquis de Lafayette, May 8 341
Escort—Safe arrival.

To Colonel Elisha Sheldon, May 8 341
Captain Hoogland's claim.

To Major Lemuel Trescott, May 9 342
Strength of British at Bull's Ferry.

General Orders, May 9 342

To Major General Robert Howe, May 9 343
Success against Delancey's detachment.

To Major John Burrowes, May 10 344
Move to Connecticut Farms.

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, May 10 . 344
Mr. Smith to go into New York—Preservation of Mrs. Livingston's gardens.

To John Adam, May 10 345
Beef and flour for Lieutenant Colonel Antill.

General Orders, May 10 345

To Henry Champion, May 10 347
Non-arrival of cattle.

To Captain Bartholomew von Heer, May 11 347
Forwarding his troop.

To Chevalier de La Luzerne, May 11 347
Honors paid Miralles—Arrival of Lafayette.

General Orders, May 11 348

To Francis Lewis, May 12 348
Thanks for lemons.

General Orders, May 12 349

Page

To Sir James Jay, May 12 350
Medicine—Elaboratory—Major Beauman's experiments.

General Orders, May 13 351

To the President of Congress, May 13 351
Marquis de Lafayette.

To the President of Congress, May 13 352
Intelligence.

To Francis Lewis, May 13 352
Thanks for wine.

To James Duane, May 13 353
To complete the Confederation a desirable object—Fate of Charleston—Huger's misfortune—Consternation in New York.

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, May 13 . 355
To march to camp.

To Lieutenant Colonel Udny Hay, May 13 355
Sir James Jay's experiments.

To Joseph Jones, May 14 356
Arrival of Lafayette—Finances—Need of a committee of Congress near Headquarters—Advantages.

To James Duane, May 14 358
Arrival of Lafayette—Finances—Need of a committee near Headquarters—Advantages.

To the Board of Treasury, May 14 358
Supply of specie.

To Chevalier de La Luzerne, May 14 359
French fleet in the West Indies.

General Orders, May 14 359

To Major General Heath, May 15 360
Expectation of a French armament—The primary object of our allies is the destruction of Halifax—Information wanted—Spies should be sent to that place and Penobscot.

To Major General Benjamin Lincoln, May 15 . . . 362
Hopes for Charleston—Arrival of Lafayette—French armament.

To Major General Robert Howe, May 15 363
British forage in Bergen—Pickets, gabions, and fascines.

To Lieutenant Colonel Udny Hay, May 15 364

To Colonel Christopher Greene, May 15 365
Making fascines.

Page

To Major Lemuel Trescott, May 15 365
Intelligence.

To Brigadier General Jedidiah Huntington, May 15 . 366
To remain where he is—Troops to be in readiness to move.

To James Bowdoin, May 15 366
Letter for Heath—Information of Halifax needed—Strength of the Army.

To Governor Thomas Jefferson, May 15 367
The expected arrival of a French fleet—Signals—Introducing Major Galvan, who goes to Cape Henry.

General Orders, May 15 369

To Marquis de Lafayette, May 16 369
First object of cooperation to reduce New York—Reasons for proceeding immediately to Sandy Hook—Possession of the harbor indispensable—British attempt to obstruct the entrance—Ultimate plan—Messages for the French—The Count de Guichen should be induced to come to America.

To Brigadier General William Maxwell, May 16 . . 373
Works for Maxwell's position.

To Colonel Goose Van Schaick, May 16 374
Fire at Fort Schuyler.

General Orders, May 16 374

To Major William Galvan, May 16 375
To meet the French fleet at Cape Henry.

To Governor John Rutledge, May 16 375
Letter for General Lincoln—Arrival of French fleet—The New York objective—Aid for Charleston—Contingencies.

General Orders, May 17 377

To Brigadier General William Woodford, May 17 . . 378
His arrival at Charleston.

To the President of Congress, May 17 378
Fleury's furlough.

To Colonel Elias Dayton, May 17 379
Sailing of a British fleet.

To Lieutenant Colonel Udny Hay, May 17 379
Platform plank.

General Orders, May 18 380

Page

To Lord Stirling, May 18 381
Question of an enlistment for the war.

To Brigadier General Anthony Wayne, May 18 . . . 381
Aid for Charleston—State of finances—Inexpediency of attempting further relief—Resuming his command in the Army.

To Colonel Clement Biddle, May 18 383
His resignation—Value of his services.

To Governor George Clinton, May 18 383
Coming of a French fleet—Men and supplies needed—Need of the troops at Fort Schuyler.

To the President of Congress, May 19 385
Letters for Governor Rutledge and General Lincoln—Troops sailed from New York.

To Lord Stirling, May 19 385
Position of Maxwell's brigade.

To Marquis de Lafayette, May 19 386
Proclamation for Canadians—Suggestions—Pilots for the French fleet—Something for the savages.

To Brigadier General William Maxwell, May 19 . . 388
His position—Punishment for inducing soldiers to desert.

To Colonel Goose Van Schaick, May 19 389
Troops left at Fort Schuyler.

To Major Benjamin Tallmadge, May 19 390
The Culpers.

To Governor Jonathan Trumbull, May 19 390
French armament coming—Fresh provisions and vegetables needed on its arrival—News from the south.

To Lund Washington, May 19 391
The Mercer business—Consciousness of duty done—Help of Providence.

To Vicomte de la Touche-Tréville, May 19 392
Wishes for his success.

To Vicomte de la Touche-Tréville, May 19 393
British naval force at New York—Possible plans of action.

General Orders, May 19 395

General Orders, May 20 395

To Marquis de Lafayette, May 20 396
Dispatches—Mr. Holker—Committee from Congress—Pilots for Cape Henry.

Page

To Major Henry Lee, May 20 397
Halt of his troops.

To Colonel Elias Dayton, May 20 397
Destination of the British fleet.

To Philip Schuyler, May 21 398
Where can the enemy be attacked to the greatest advantage?—In the south or at New York, and in case of a junction of their force—What force should be asked of the States—Questions connected with an operation against New York.

General Orders, May 21 400

To Major Thomas Lloyd Moore, May 22 401
Attempt on Bull's Ferry.

General Orders, May 22 402

To Brigadier General William Maxwell, May 23 . . 402
French fleet reported off the Jersey coast—Colonel Gimat.

To Jeremiah Wadsworth, May 23 403
Chevalier de Fayolle's mission.

To Governor William Greene, May 23 403
Coming of a French fleet—Chevalier Fayolle's mission.

General Orders, May 23 404

To Governor George Clinton, May 23–24 405
Frontier distress—Troops at Fort Schuyler—Subsistence difficulty—Half-allowance—Exertions of States necessary—Massachusetts to furnish troops for the frontier—Provision scarcity at Fort Schuyler—Condition of the army—Magazines.

General Orders, May 24 407

To the Committee of Cooperation, May 24 408
Powers vested by Congress in the Committee.

To Colonel Goose Van Schaick, May 24 409
Apprehensions of the frontier—Militia—Supply of the garrison of Fort Schuyler.

To the Officer of General Maxwell's Brigade, May 24 . 410
To accompany Colonel Gimat.

To Doctor James Craik, May 24 410
French fleet and army expected—Hospital to be established at Providence—General directions.

To Governor William Greene, May 24 411
Introducing Captain Rochefontaine.

Page

To Major General Robert Howe, May 25 412
Difficulty in digesting a plan of campaign—Howe's employment—Fascines, gabions, and scantling.

To Major General Nathanael Greene, May 25 . . . 413
Horses for the French army.

To Major General Robert Howe, May 25 413
Unable to relieve distress of troops—Meat shortage—Flour stopped for lack of transportation—Everything almost at a stand—Fascines and gabions—News of the enemy—Resignations in the Massachusetts line.

To Colonel Goose Van Schaick, May 25 415
Supplies for Fort Schuyler—State of the magazines.

To Major General Alexander McDougall, May 25 . . 416
To remain where he is.

To the Committee of Cooperation, May 25 416
The Committee's circular letter to the States—Unless its recommendations are adopted, it will be impossible to cooperate with any reasonable prospect of success—Consequences of failure—Importance of filling the battalions—A regularly organized force needed—Militia too uncertain—Drafting the only efficacious means of getting men.

To Governor William Greene, May 25 419
Introducing Doctor Craik—Hospital for the French.

To Governor George Clinton, May 25 420
Flour for Fort Schuyler—Unhappy state of finances.

To Mrs. Nicholas Hoffman, May 25 421
Refusal of her request.

General Orders, May 25 422

General Orders, May 26 422

To Major General Nathanael Greene, May 26 . . . 423
Boats at Providence.

To Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs, May 26 424
Suppression of mutiny.

To Henry Champion, May 26 424
Distress for meat.

To Lieutenant Colonel Udny Hay, May 26 425
Flour for Fort Schuyler.

To Governor Jonathan Trumbull, May 26 425
Mutiny from want of meat—Begs that relief be hastened.

To Colonel Ephraim Blaine, May 27 426
District of troops for meat.

Page

To Colonel Clement Biddle, May 27 426
His resignation—Expected arrival of the French—Begs him to remain in office.

To the Board of War, May 27 427
Lack of meat—Mutiny of troops—Cattle must be forwarded.

To the President of Congress, May 27 428
Army reduced to an extremity for want of meat—Mutiny in the Connecticut line—Distress at West Point and Fort Schuyler—Frontier threatened—Advices from Canada—New York troops to be sent to Albany—Lack of provisions—Mutiny—Complaints of the troops—Depreciated pay—A British address to the American Army.

General Orders, May 27 432

General Orders, May 28 433

To President Joseph Reed, May 28 434
Every idea of the distress of the Army will fall short of the reality—Indifference and insensibility of the country—The address to the States by the Committee—The present is the most decisive moment—Assistance from France—The last campaign and its lessons—Maritime strength of England compared with those of France and Spain—A powerful marine depends on an extensive commerce—The creation of a fleet by France—The longest purse will win—Financial position of Great Britain—That of France and Spain—Spain divided on the war—Aid of France will ruin us if we will not meet the emergency—Dependence on Pennsylvania—General situation as respects supplies—Wishes Pennsylvania legislature would vest Reed with plenipotentiary powers.

To Brigadier General William Maxwell, May 28 . . 440
Postponement of fortification building—Recommends change of location of his troops—Fascines—Suspicious cattle purchase—Mr. Norton to come out from New York.

To Major General Robert Howe, May 28 442
New York brigade to go to the frontier.

To Solomon Southwick, May 28 442
Distress for meat—Salt beef.

To Governor George Clinton, May 28 443
New York brigade ordered to Albany.

To the Board of Admiralty, May 29 443
Captain Van Dyke's case—Recommends him for appointment of captain in the Marines.

To Colonel Elias Dayton, May 29 445
Intercourse with New York must be stopped—Rules for flagboats.

To the Board of Treasury, May 29 446
French expedition—Services of Colonel Biddle—His accounts.

Page

To Colonel Clement Biddle, May 29 447
Forage supply—Trenton a place for deposit.

General Orders, May 29 448

To Brigadier General James Clinton, May 30 . . . 448
Sir John Johnson's expedition from Canada—Fort Schuyler—His brigade to go to Albany—From thence according to Clinton's discretion—Provision for Fort Schuyler—Provisions for his troops.

To Major General Robert Howe, May 30 450
Guard for Lafayette's baggage.

General Orders, May 30 451

General Orders, May 31 452

To Joseph Jones, May 31 452
Congress should have greater powers—We can no longer drudge on in the old way—Always working up hill—One army branching into thirteen—General Weeden.

To the President of Congress, May 31 454
Surrender of Charleston.

To the President of Congress, May 31 455
Introducing Colonel Sherburne.

To the Committee of Cooperation, May 31 455
Essential to know the resources of the country before acting—Force of men required—Quantity of provisions and supplies—British force at New York—Allied force—Provisions needed—States to be called upon for definite aids—A call for militia may prejudice recruiting the Continental battalions—A perfect understanding essential.

To Major General Nathanael Greene, May 31 . . . 459
Preparations for campaign—Boats, etc.—Misleading the enemy—Artillery and engineering articles wanted.

To Colonel Christopher Greene, May 31 461
Capital court-martial case.

To Colonel Elias Dayton, May 31 461
News in Rivington's paper—Warns against the enemy.

To President Jeremiah Powell, May 31 462
Massachusetts acts—Pardon for deserters.

To Major General Robert Howe, June 1 463
Surrender of Charleston and return of Sir Henry Clinton to New York—Defense of West Point—Flour and salt meat—Collection of cattle.

To Jeremiah Wadsworth, June 1 464
Apprehension for West Point.

Page

To Governor Jonathan Trumbull, June 1 464
Fall of Charleston—Return of Sir Henry Clinton to New York—Flour and salt meat for West Point—Cattle supply must be kept up—Fascines and gabions.

General Orders, June 1 466

General Orders, June 2 467

To Major General William Heath, June 2 467
French fleet expected at Rhode Island—Hospital—Heath to go to Rhode Island.

Crcular to the States, June 2 468
Committee's letter—Militia and recruits needed—State quotas—Rendezvous—Filling the regiments.

To Baron von Knyphausen, June 2 470
Commissary of prisoners authorized—Lewis Pintard.

To Major General Nathanael Greene, June 3 471
Establishment of expresses between headquarters and Rhode Island.

General Orders, June 3 472

To Major General Robert Howe, June 3 472
Transportation of flour.

To Major General Horatio Gates, June 4 473
Will he join the Army.

To Colonel Elisha Sheldon, June 4 473
Clothing—Dragoons for duty on the lines.

To Major Jeremiah Talbot, June 4 474
Guard of stores on the road.

To Captain Moses Ashley, June 4 474
His promotion.

To Abraham Skinner, June 4 475
Hessian officers to go into New York, also the son of Doctor Connolly.

To Major General Benedict Arnold, June 4 476
Printing the proclamation to the Canadians—Secrecy.

General Orders, June 4 476

General Orders, June 5 477

To Major General Robert Howe, June 5 477

To James Duane, June 5 478
Promotion of Captain McLean—Surrender of Charleston.

Page

To the Board of War, June 5 480
Complaint against Colonel Weltner—Captain-Lieutenant Godfrey's sentence—His value to the elaboratory.

To Chevalier de La Luzerne, June 5 481
Expressions of good-will—Appreciation of his services.

To John Augustine Washington, June 6 482

Council of War, June 6 482

General Orders, June 6 485

General Orders, June 7 486

General Orders, June 7 486

To Major Jeremiah Talbot or Officer Commanding at Paramus, June 7 487
Advance of British at Elizabethtown—Militia—Orders.

To Lord Stirling, June 7 488
British advance—Militia alarm.

To the Board of War, June 8 488
Halt of Major Lee's corps.

General Orders, June 8 489

To Lord Stirling, June 8 490
Movement of troops to meet the enemy.

To Lord Stirling, June 8 490
Washington's position—General instructions.

General Orders, June 9 491

To Brigadier General Nathaniel Heard, June 9 . . . 492
British probable movement—Videttes.

To the President of Congress, June 10 493
British advance to Springfield—Opposition to them—Enemy retired to Elizabethtown—His vandalism—Militia.

To Major General Robert Howe, June 10 494
West Point the capital object of attention—Incursion of Knyphausen into New Jersey—Inexplicable conduct—Skirmishing—The posts on the Hudson may be the object.

To Brigadier General James Clinton, June 10 496
His movement beyond Albany—His return to West Point.

Answers to De Corny, June 10 496
On the coming cooperation with the French.

Page

To Governor Jonathan Trumbull, June 10 499
Introducing De Corny—Supplies for the French.

To Lieutenant Governor Pierre Van Cortlandt, June 10 . 500
Retreat of Sir John Johnson—Return of Clinton's brigade to West Point—British advance at Elizabethtown.

To President Caesar Rodney, June 10 501
Appointment of ensigns.

General Orders, June 10 502

General Orders, June 11 503

To Colonel Clement Biddle, June 11 504
Impress of forage.

To the Committee of Cooperation, June 11 504
Pressure on the States—Knyphausen in New Jersey—Intentions of British—Spirited actions of New Jersey Militia—Absolute need of a permanent force—These ideas should be held up clearly to the States.

To Jeremiah Wadsworth, June 11 506
His exertions—The situation—Arms and recruits—British advance into Jersey.

To Major Henry Lee, June 11 508
His rapid march.

To Governor Jonathan Trumbull, June 11 509
Salt provision for West Point—Trumbull's zeal—Need of exertions to cooperate with the French—British advance into Jersey—Their intention—Ravages—Need of men—Condolence.

TABLE OF SYMBOLS

The following symbols have been used to denote the place of deposit of Washington letters not found in draft or letter-book form in the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress:

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New Hampshire Historical Society	[N.H.H.S.]
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Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati	[R.I.S.C.]
Society of the Cincinnati	[S.C.]
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Virginia State Library	[V.S.L.]

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 10, 1780.

Gentlemen: I have, agreeable to the Resolve of Congress of the 12th Novemr., formed a regimental arrangement of the eleven Companies of Artificers at present acting in a detached manner under the direction of the Quarter Master General, who I have consulted on the occasion, as being better acquainted with the merits of the Officers, and the nature of the service, than I could possibly be. I have concluded to form the Regt. in ten Companies. No. 1. contains the names of the Officers at present of the eleven Companies, with their relative Ranks and pretensions. No. 2. such of them as are recommended for promotion and for continuance in the service, and those recommended for new Commissions. No. 3. The number of Commissioned and Staff Officers, and privates of which the Regiment is to consist.[1] No. 4. A Roll of the Artificers at present in service, with their terms of inlistment. By this last you will perceive the necessity of an early attention to recruiting the Corps, or being obliged to add to the heavy deduction already made from the Line of the Army, by taking Men of this Class from it. The 10th. Captaincy and some Subs are yet vacant. The Quarter Master General has some persons in View to fill those places and will shortly recommend them.

[1] Inclosures nos. 1, 2, and 3 are in the *Washington Papers*.

Colo. Baldwin the Commandant of the Corps will have the honour of delivering this to the Board, and will be able to give them any further insight which they may require into the nature of the Business. The Commissions for the Officers who are nominated may be delivered to him.

It is my wish, as I before mentioned, that measures may be immediately taken to recruit the Corps to the establishment, if the plan is approved, and I think we might with safety adopt a measure, which has not been thought expedient in the line of the Army, which is, the inlistment of those deserters from the Enemy who are mechanics of the kind wanted. Being remote from danger in this Corps, they will not have the same inducements to return again to the enemy, as if they were of the line. The fear of being taken, generally operates so powerfully upon them, that they often go back, rather than run the risque. If this should be approved it will be necessary to insert it in Colo. Baldwins recruiting instructions, as there is a Resolve of Congress existing, against inlisting deserters, except by special licence. It will also be necessary, should orders be given to recruit, to furnish the Colo. with a sum of Money, as the military Chest is barely adequate to the pay and contingent Expences of the Army. I have the honor, etc.[2]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Thursday, February 10, 1780.

Parole Ontario. Countersigns Oswego, Oneida.

The names of the field officers agreeable to the orders of the 2nd. instant are to be inserted in the returns of this week.

[2] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

The Sub-Inspectors will please to collect returns of regulations, company books, and soldiers books wanting in the respective divisions, that there may be a distribution of those on hand.

The Commander in Chief at the intercession of the officers of the 3rd. Pennsylvania regiment, and for other weighty considerations thinks fit to remit the sentence against William Barrett of said regiment.

He also thinks fit at the intercession of Col. Jackson,[3] and for similar reasons, to remit the sentences against Joseph Waterhouse, Amos Rounds, William Straw, John Matthews, James Whitney, William Harman, Pelatiah Harman, Nathaniel Milleken, Joel Milleken, Christian Myers and Philip Wilds of his regiment; Those soldiers are severally to be released from confinement.

Jesse Peirce and Nathan Barney of the same regiment are to receive corporal punishment agreeable to the sentences decreed against them, and are to be released from confinement.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Friday, February 11, 1780.

Parole Pennsylvania. Countersigns Persia, Peru.

Charles McClean of the 3rd. Pennsylvania regiment; Thomas Herrindeen and William Potter, of Colonel Angell's[4] regiment; John Lewis of Colonel Jackson's regiment, and John McLane and William Hooper of the 4th. New York, are to suffer agreeable to the sentences decreed against them.

[3] Col. Henry Jackson, of an Additional Continental regiment.
[4] Col. Israel Angell, of the Second Rhode Island Regiment.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Morris Town, February 12, 1780.

Sir: In a circular letter of the 22d of Jany. in your absence, I transmitted the Inspector's reports of december to the Commandant of your Brigade delineating several defects and abuses there pointed out and exhorting to effectual measures for remedying them. This letter I presume you have since your return received; if not you will be pleased immediately to call for it, and have the objects contained in it properly attended to. I am chagrined to observe that the subsequent reports of Jany. afford fresh matter for animadversion. In particular the waste and destruction of arms ammunition and accoutrements since the last inspection exceed all reasonable bounds. The 4th. and 5th Regiments (and the first more than the last) have been in this respect, singularly delinquent. My duty to the service and my regard to the Gentlemen themselves oblige me to declare, that your own reputation and that of the officers commanding the regiments demand a speedy reform.

I also observe that there are arms and accoutrements in the possession of the respective regiments not in the hands of the men. This would not be the case if the regulations were complied with, for according to them all such articles are to be lodged with the Brigade conductors. These also prescribe penalties for unnecessary loss and waste which if carefully inflicted would correct the evil.

I request to be informed whence proceeds so great and general a deficiency of arms ammunition and accoutrements as appears upon the face of these reports.

There are several men reported unfit for service. You will have them examined by the Surgeon General and either transferred to the invalid corps or discharged as their cases may respectively require.

You will be pleased to examine how it happens that four men are reported waiters to the Colonel[5] in the 3d. regiment, three of whom have been absent such a length of time, and have the matter rectified without delay.

What is the reason the Colonel himself has made so long a stay from his Regiment?

In all the weekly returns many men are returned unfit for duty wanting cloathes, and yet in these reports there appears to be more or less cloathing in each regiment undistributed. This seems not to be perfectly consistent but to require explanation. As fast as the cloathing is received it ought to be issued to the men who are most in want.

I inclose you the last reports for your examination. When this is done you will return them with the others. I shall flatter myself that the next inspection will exhibit a more favourable picture of the state of the Brigade. I am etc.[6]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Saturday, February 12, 1780.

Parole Question. Countersigns Quiet, Quere.

The General had flattered himself that when once a system of regulations for the government of the army had been framed and put into officers hands by which their several duties were become definite and easy to be known, we should soon acquire by a proper spirit of emulation, that perfection in discipline, essential to the goodness, success and reputation of the Army; but he is sorry to be obliged to declare that these pleasing hopes have hitherto in a very great measure been disappointed by the event, and that numerous disorders and irregularities still

[5] Col. Peter Gansevoort.
[6] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

prevail. He therefore in the most earnest manner calls upon the officers commanding divisions and brigades, by the closest personal attention, to the Police of their respective Corps to correct those disorders and introduce an exact conformity to the regulations for the order and discipline of the troops of the United States, established by Congress, for which, and for the execution of all general orders, they are immediately responsible. The duties of every kind are there clearly pointed out and may be easily understood and practised; Ignorance of any of them cannot be an excuse, but is an aggravation of neglects, nor will they be overlooked in any officer whatsoever.

It is impossible for the Commander in Chief to discharge the general duties of his station while he is incumbered by the many minutious details which are daily brought before him only because the regulations are not attended to and made the rule of Conduct: The waste of arms, ammunition and accoutrements which still continues in a great degree, in some Corps, is among other instances of neglect.

Not less than one hundred and from that to two hundred men have, for the last six weeks, been returned unfit for duty "wanting arms" in this part of the army, notwithstanding from the number of men discharged, if there had been proper care and attention, the Commissaries and Conductors would now be incumbered with spare quantities of those articles, so little have availed the regulations and the repeated and positive orders on this head; to which the General directs a recurrence, particularly to that issued at West Point the 17th. of August last.

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 12, 1780.

Dear Sir: I recd. yours of yesterday late last night. I am pleased to find that the Vigilance of your Guards and patrolls

disappointed the enemy whatever might have been their intentions. I have taken precautions to guard against an attempt, by such a party as might be reasonably supposed to be able to reach this in the course of a night, and I hope that a short continuance of this Weather will make the Ice impassable by Horse; from foot there is no danger at this distance.

If you still think an attempt upon Buskirk's Corps practicable you are at full liberty to try the experiment. I am confident you will undertake nothing but what will be justified by appearances and a probability of success. I am &c.

P. S. As the Enemy have made an incursion with their Horse by the way of Hackensack, will it not be prudent in you to extend your patrols of Horse more to your left while the Ice is passable. Whenever persons apply for liberty to go within the Enemy's lines, having permission of the Executive of any of the states, Congress or Board of War, you may suffer them to pass without an application to me.[7] Monsr. Thierry will call upon you for a passport either by Staten Island or Paulus Hook[8] as he may find admission. You will be pleased to grant it to him.[9]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Sunday, February 13, 1780.

Parole Revenue. Countersigns Reserve, Riches.

The Quarter Master General and Commissary of military stores will forthwith make a return of all the Espontoons in their possession and of the deliveries since the 1st. of June last.

[7] On February 10 Washington had written to St. Clair granting permission to a Mr. Saxton, of Pennsylvania, to enter New York. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[8] Spelled "Powles Hook" in the Varick transcript in the Library of Congress.

[9] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 14, 1780.

Sir: I have been honoured with Your Excellency's Favor of the 7th and are much obliged by the transmission of the letter from Major General Lincoln, and from Major Lane's[10] state of the prisoners at the Southward. The General is not precise in his information on this subject, as to the number or rank of our Officers still in captivity, but from what he says, I conclude it is nearly as Major Lane has related it.

I transmit Your Excellency Extracts from some dispatches I have lately received from Major General Heath. Those indorsed No. 1. 2 and 3[11] will inform Congress, that Two fires have happened at the posts in the Highlands, and of the loss of Stores in the Quarter Master's department, occasioned by the First. There has been a very minute inquiry with respect to this, and the Court have reported unanimously that it was accidental. Besides these Two fires, One of the Redoubts on the East side of the River, suffered a little in the same way some time before. Major General Heath appears by His orders, issued so early as the 10th of January to have pointed out and enjoined every proper precaution to prevent accidents of this kind in the Barracks and Works; but these will sometimes take place notwithstanding every provision that can be made. The Extracts No 4 and 5[12] contain an account, the best I have

[10] An extract of Lincoln's letter (Dec. 23, 1779) and a copy of Maj. Joseph Lane's (Third Georgia Regiment) statement are in the *Washington Papers* under date of Feb. 7, 1780.

[11] Inclosure no. 1 was an extract of Heath's letter to Washington, Jan. 27, 1780, the original of which is in the *Washington Papers*. No. 2 was a copy of the return of quartermaster stores consumed in the fire, the original of which is in the *Washington Papers*, under date of Feb. 2, 1780. No. 3 was an extract of Heath's letter, Feb. 2, 1780, the original of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

[12] Extracts nos. 4 and 5 were those of a letter from Capt. Orringh Stoddard to Heath, Feb. 3, 1780, the original of which is in the *Washington Papers;* and from Heath's letter to Washington, Feb. 4, 1780, the original of which is also in the *Washington Papers*.

yet received, of a movement on the part of the Enemy on the morning of the 3d against a Detachment of our Troops under the command of Lt Colo Thompson,[13] which was advanced to the Neighbourhood of the White plains. Captain Stoddards relation of this affair is very imperfect; but it seems pretty evident that it was unfavourable in the issue. I have the Honor, etc.[14]

P S. Since writing the above I have received a Letter from Generl. Heath, giving a particular account of the movement of the Enemy against the Detachment under Lt Colo Thompson. This and the result of the affair your Excellency will find in the Inclosure No. 6.[15]

To COLONEL HENRY JACKSON

February 14, 1780.

Sir: I have considered your favor of this date with its inclosure.

There does not appear to me any reason, upon which the soldiers are intitled to, or can claim the Continental fire arms at the expiration of their times of service. The act of Assembly is very plain. As an incouragement for men to bring their own arms into the army, it offers a certain bounty, and to such who do not, a lesser sum. The difference which is given to the former, appears to have been designed as a compensation for the use of the arms; nor can any construction whatsoever authorise the latter to carry off arms &c. the property of the Continent. I am &c.[16]

[13] Lieut. Col. Joseph Thompson, of the Tenth Massachusetts Regiment. He was taken prisoner at Young's House, Four Corners, near White Plains, N. Y., in February, 1780; exchanged in December, 1780; retired in January, 1781.

[14] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

[15] Inclosure no. 6 was an extract from Heath's letter to Washington, Feb. 10, 1780, the original of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

[16] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 15, 1780.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 4th. which only reached me late on the 13th.

Sincerely desirous of doing every thing in my power by which the interest of his Christian Majesty inseparable from that of these States can in any manner be promoted, and still more in a point so essential as that which makes the subject of your letter, I should not hesitate to furnish the detachment required by Mr. Duer,[17] whatever might be my opinion of its necessity did not the present state of the army absolutely forbid it. I with confidence assure Your Excellency that our force is so reduced by the expiration of the terms of service for which a considerable part of it was engaged, and will be so much more diminished in the course of a month or two from the same cause, as scarcely to suffice for the common exigencies of the service and to afford just cause for uneasiness, should the Enemy be actuated by a spirit of enterprise, before we receive the reinforcements intended for the next campaign. So circumstanced my duty to the common cause will not justify me in adding to the insecurity of our situation by making a detachment which though apparently inconsiderable would be materially felt in our present weakness; and I am persuaded after the information now given, Your Excellency will wish me not to hazard the measure.

With respect to the necessity of a covering party I shall not venture to decide but I should imagine in the present state of

[17] William Duer, judge of common pleas, Charlotte (now Washington) County, N. Y. Duer's proposal was to cut trees for masts for the French Navy, Washington to furnish a guard for the cutters.

things, the business may be carried on with tolerable security without one. The consequences of the late expedition promise tranquillity for some time to our frontier, and make it at any rate improbable that the Savages will be able to penetrate so far at so early a period; and the proposition does not require that the covering party should remain longer than till the last of April. The intelligence I have received corresponds with these ideas. It might be added that the Garrison at Wyoming gives some degree of protection to the part of the Country in question. But as it is very important that no interruption should be given to the workmen, if a covering party should upon the whole be thought requisite, the best mode of furnishing it will be from the neighbouring Militia. For this purpose, on Your Excellencys application to Congress, I cannot doubt they will immediately make the necessary arrangements. I have the honor etc.[18]

To JOSEPH REED

Morris-town, February 15, 1780.

Sir: I am much indebted to your Excellency for announcing my election as a member of the Philosophical society.[19] I feel myself particularly honored by this relation to a society whose successful efforts for [promoting] useful knowledge have already justly acquired them the highest reputation in the literary world. I entreat you to present my warmest acknowledgments, and to assure them that I shall with zeal embrace every opportunity of seconding their laudable views and manifesting the

[18] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade. From a photostat of the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. & Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

[19] The American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia. Washington was elected a member Jan. 19, 1780. His membership certificate, in the *Washington Papers*, is dated Mar. 22, 1780.

exalted sense I have of the institution. The arts and sciences essential to the prosperity of the state and to the ornament and happiness of human life have a primary claim to the encouragement of every lover of his country and of mankind. With the greatest respect etc.[20]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 15, 1780.

Gentn: I find by a Resolution of the 9th: Instant, of which I received a Copy last night, that Congress have been pleased to determine the Quota of Troops to be furnished by the respective States the ensuing Campaign, and that the Non Commissioned Officers and privates in the additional Corps, Artillery and Cavalry and the Regimented Artificers in the departments of the Quarter Master General and Commissary of Military Stores, whose times of service will not expire before the last of September next are to be considered as part of the Quotas of the States to which they respectively belong. I also find, that they have been pleased to direct me to transmit to the several States accurate Returns of their Troops, including the proportion of Non Commissioned Officers and privates in the Corps I have mentioned belonging to each. Unfortunately I have but very inaccurate States of these Corps in general and from this circumstance and the remote and dispersed situation of many of them much time must be spent in obtaining them. As particular Returns of most of these, so far as least as respected the States from which the Men came, have been transmitted to your Office in consequence of the Act of the 15th of March last. I might perhaps derive some assistance

[20] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The date line, address, and the word in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

from them and be enabled if I had them to make more early transmissions of the Returns directed by Congress. I would therefore request that the Board would favor me by the earliest opportunity with the Returns of this kind, of the German Battallion, Baylors Regiment of Dragoons, and of Von heers Marachaussie Corps, with any particular States they may have respecting the terms of the Men's inlistments. The Levies required being connected with and indeed made dependant in these Returns; The Board I am convinced will feel the propriety of the earliest attention to this business and will most willingly afford me every aid in their power with respect to it. If they have a particular State of the late Rawlings Corps of Shot's[21] and Seley's[22] Companies, and of the Regiments at Fort Pitt, I shall be obliged by their favouring me with it. I have the Honor etc.[23]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 15, 1780.

Dr. Sir: Congress have been pleased to determine, by an Act of the 9th. Instant, a Copy of which I received last night, the Quota of Troops to be furnished by each of the States for the ensuing Campaign, and have directed me to transmit them respectively, accurate Returns of their Non-Commissioned Officers and privates, that they may know the deficiency for which they are to provide. I therefore request that you will send me as soon as possible, a Return of the number of Non-Commissioned Officers and privates of the Fifteen Massachusett's Regiments; distinguishing particularly what

[21] Capt. John Paul Schott, of Ottendorff's Corps.
[22] Capt. Anthony Selin (Seley)(?).
[23] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

proportion of them are inlisted for the War and the different terms of service of the residue, digested in Monthly Columns. I obtained a pretty exact state of All the Troops from the Muster Master General in November, which I transmitted to Congress, the better to govern them in their measures and requisitions; but as these have been so long deferred, there may have been many material alterations with respect to the Troops. To the Non-Commissioned Officers and privates in the respective State lines, I am to add those in the Regiments and Corps, which were not originally apportioned on any particular States by the Resolution of Congress of the 16 of September 1776, as part of the quota of the States from which they came; and the number between the aggregate amount and the quota fixed at present by Congress, is the only deficiency for which the States are to provide. You will I am convinced feel the necessity of the earliest attention to this business and will not delay sending me such a Return as I have requested, a moment longer than circumstances may make it indispensibly necessary. I am etc.[24] [MS.H.S.]

To COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 15, 1780.

Dr Sir: I am to request that You will transmit me as soon as possible an exact Return of the number of Non Commissioned Officers and privates of your Regiment; designating in a particular manner, [how many belong to this or that State] what proportion of them are inlisted for the War, and the different terms of service of the residue, digested in Monthly Columns.

[24] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The same letter was sent to Brig. Gen. Enoch Poor, of the New Hampshire line, substituting the word "three" for the number of regiments.

You cannot be too expeditious in forwarding me this Return. [The One transmitted, will not answer the purposes for which this is wanted. I have also written to Colonel Sheldon for a similar Return of his Regiment.] I am etc.[25]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENJAMIN FLOWER

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 15, 1780.

Sir: I have occasion for an immediate Return of the Regiment of Artillery Artificers specifying the particular States to which the non Commd. Officers and privates belong and the terms for which they stand engaged. Inclosed you will find a form of the return required. As the Companies composing the Corps are considerably detached, you will be pleased to take the most effectual measures to convey your Orders to the Officers at a distance. As soon as you have collected the Company Returns and formed them into a Regimental one, you will transmit it to me without loss of time. I am &c.

P. S. I shall myself obtain Returns of those Companies of Artillery Artificers serving in the field.[26]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Tuesday, February 15, 1780.

Parole Transylvania. Countersigns Timothy, Titus.

The issuing Commissaries will issue a jill of rum pr. man pr. day to the officers and men on Main guard and picket at Morristown.

[25] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison and bears this notation by him: "Same to Sheldon. Colo Vanschaick, except what is in the Brackets." The letter sent to Van Schaick is now in the New York Historical Society.

[26] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Wednesday, February 16, 1780.

Parole Union. Countersigns Virtue, Wisdom.

The officers of the day report that many arms are brought upon the grand parade so rusty, dirty and otherwise out of order as to be unfit for service.

The General therefore directs that the officers of the day in future will report in writing to the officer commanding the division, the regiment and company to which such arms belong that proper notice may be taken of the negligent officers.

When it rains or snows, the camp guards may be excused from assembling on the grand parade but they are to be visited as usual at their respective posts by the officers of the day.

Where huts have been built on the declivity of hills and are sunk into the ground, particular care is to be taken to have the snow removed and trenches dug round to carry off the water, without which the soldiers will sleep amidst continual damps and their health will consequently be injured; this must be done immediately.

The Colonels and Commanding officers of all corps of Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry and of the regimented Artificers in the departments of the Quarter Master General and Commissary General of Military Stores which were not apportioned on the several States as part of their quota by the resolution of Congress the 16th. of September 1776, are forthwith to make the most precise and exact returns to the Adjutant General of the number of non commissioned officers and privates in their corps, designating in a particular manner how many belong to each State; What proportion of these are inlisted for the war, and the different terms of service of the residue

digested in monthly columns: The General expects the most pointed and immediate attention to this order.

Frequent delays and neglects have lately happened, to the hindrance of public and essential business, particularly by members of the General Court Martial; The Adjutant General has therefore positive orders to bring the first officer to strict account who shall presume to shew contempt to the court or disrespect to general orders.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 16, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your several favors of the 2d. 4th: 8th. and 10th: Instants. From the frequency of fires at West point and its dependencies, one would think there was something more than accident, and yet, from the enquiry, they do not appear to be the effect of design. It is possible. It is possible that there may be Fire Engines in some of the towns up the River, one of which you might perhaps obtain upon application. The posts at the Highlands are of so much consequence to the people of the state of New York, that, I am convinced, they will readily afford every assistance towards the safety and security of the Works.

You will be pleased to furnish Mr. Spencer with a sum of Money to enable him to travel to Virginia, of which he should take a Certificate from the Dy. Pay Mr. Genl. that he may settle his account with his Regimental pay Master, and as you mention his Want of Cloaths, he may be permitted to draw such necessaries as the public store affords, paying for them at the price regulated by Congress.

I am pleased to find that the state of Massachusetts, have, upon reconsideration, given Major Hull his rank, and I hope

that, as they are now fully possessed of the principles of Rank and of the consequences which would ensue from a deviation from them, they will not in future make any promotions out of the regular line.

The Affair at the White plains is a very unlucky one, and our loss, considering the strength of the detachment, very considerable.[27] It is some consolation that our Officers and Men appear to have made a brave resistance. I cannot help suspecting that our Officers, in advance, quarter too long in a place; by these Means the enemy, by their emissaries, gain a perfect knowledge of their Cantonments, and form their attacks accordingly; were they to shift constantly the enemy could scarcely ever attain this knowledge.

A short continuance of the present weather will break up the Ice or render it impassable, either of which will put you in a better state as to security. I am &c.[28]

To COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, Morristown, February 16, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I have to acknowledge your favors of the 1st and 8th of this month.

With regard to the act of Assembly of the State of Connecticut, it appears to me founded on a principle which if extended or carried into a precedent, would be productive of consequences most injurious to the service.[29] In the present instance

[27] Lieutenant Colonel Thompson's outpost consisted of five companies. It was surprised by a party of British horse and foot the morning of February 3 and defeated, with a loss of 17 killed, 14 wounded, 88 prisoners, and 4 missing.

[28] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[29] A copy of the act of the Connecticut Assembly (undated) accompanied Moylan's letter to Washington, February 8. It provided that the Fourth Continental Dragoons be quartered at Colchester "and the other or 2d Regt. called Sheldon's, shall be Canton'd in the Several towns of Farmington, Symsbury, Windsor, Suffield, East Windsor and Enfield, in equal proportions as near as may be, and to be distributed and placed in Such parts of Said Several towns as the Civil Authority and Select men of Such towns shall order and direct." Moylan's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

however there seemed a necessity for complying with it, for the greater ease of the inhabitants and to prevent the cantonments falling too heavy on any particular place. It is always my wish to accommodate where no great injury can result to the service. And I would hope, that notwithstanding the sparse situation into which the cavalry are thrown the attention of the officers will provide against the inconveniences apprehended. I am &c.[30]

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 16, 1780.

Sir: I have the pleasure to transmit Your Excellency a Letter from Major Genl de Riedesel which only came to hand Two days ago.

I would now inform Your Excellency, that agreeable to my letter of the 18th of December I have obtained a Return of Moylan's Regiment of Light Dragoons, and find, as I apprehended, that there are Sixty three Non Commissioned Officers and privates in it, who belong to Virginia. Of this number Two only are inlisted for the War, and the service of the Rest will expire in December next. Having given Your Excellency an account of these Men, I have only to observe, that with the returns transmitted in my Letter of the 18th of December, You now have the fullest and most accurate state of the Virginia Troops that I can furnish and of those to be applied to the credit of Your Quota. By these and the information Your Excellency may have received with respect to the Levies under General Scott, and Blands and Baylor's Regiments You may perhaps be able to form a pretty just estimate of the force of the State employed in the Army, and to govern Yourself with

[30] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

tolerable certainty as to the deficiency of the State's Quota which Congress, as Your Excellency will no doubt be informed by the president, have required to be levied for the ensuing Campaign by an Act on the 9th Instant. I have the Honor etc.[31]

To THE NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATES IN CONGRESS[32]

Head Quarters, February 17, 1780.

Gentn: Capn. Reed[33] of the North Carolina troops was order'd by instructions from Col. Clarke to the Eastward to purchase clothing for the officers of that State, and is thus far on his return having procured the clothing. The troops having marched Southward he is embarrassed what steps to pursue whether to dispose of what he has purchased, and risque the obtaining of others in Carolina, or to have them forwarded after the troops. As it is a matter totally relative to the State I would beg leave to refer him to your advice and directions on this occasion. I have the honor, &c.[34]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 17, 1780.

Sir: On Monday night I had the Honor to receive Your Excellency's dispatches of the 10th. I shall in compliance with

[31] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

On February 16 Richard Kidder Meade wrote to Col. Walter Stewart that Washington "does not object to some Officers going in pursuit of deserters, tho it must be done on a more general scale than that which you request . . . he wishes to see you. . . ." Meade's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[32] Thomas Burke, Allen Jones, and John Penn were then present in Congress.

[33] Capt. James Read (Reed), of the First North Carolina Regiment. He served subsequently as colonel of North Carolina Militia, and was taken prisoner at Charleston, S. C., in May, 1780.

[34] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

the direction of Congress, take the earliest occasion that circumstances will allow, to transmit the States the Returns required.[35] I think it my duty however to inform Congress, that from the remote and dispersed situation of many Corps not originally raised as part of the State quotas, and as the returns directed must differ from those that are usually made, it will be some weeks before they can be transmitted. From this consideration I have thought it would be more adviseable than to delay the matter altogether, to forward a particular return of the Battallions belonging to each State, to be followed by Returns of their proportion of men in the Other Corps where they cannot be procured at present. I had not obtained these, designating the States to which the Men respectively belonged, as they had been generally transmitted to the Honourable Board of War; in consequence of the Act of the 15th of March. I should have been happy it had pleased Congress from the state of the Army transmitted them the 18th of November and the Returns in possession of the Board, to have formed an Estimate (though it had not been as exact as might be wished) of a certain number of Men to be furnished by each State in addition to those now on foot, as I am persuaded if they defer their measures for raising Men 'till they receive the Returns required by the late Resolution, it will be impossible for the intention of Congress relative to the time of the Recruits taking the Field to be fulfilled. Indeed this would be the case at any rate, at least with respect to those of the more remote States, and especially if their Legislatures should not happen to be sitting when the Requisitions get to hand. I have the honor, etc.[36]

[35] By the resolves of February 9 Washington was directed to furnish the States with accurate returns of their troops, in order that they might take measures to complete their quotas, the amounts of which were given in these resolves.

[36] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Thursday, February 17, 1780.

Parole Yeoman. Countersigns Yellow, Youth.

A serjeant, corporal and ten men from General Hand's brigade to be sent this day to Commissary Gambles[37] to assist in securing the stores from the weather and to continue 'till that business is done.

An exact return of all guards furnished by divisions or brigades to be made with the ensuing weekly returns.

All brigade and camp guards (which are to be relieved once a day or in two days at farthest) are not to be included.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Friday, February 18, 1780.

Parole Arms. Countersigns Ammunition, Accoutrements.

By a division General Court Martial held in the Pennsylvania line by order of Colonel Johnston,[38] Commandant of the division, Colonel Walter Stewart, President, James Hammell and Samuel Crawford, soldiers of the 5th. Pennsylvania regiment were tried, "On suspicion of robbery" and found guilty of the charge being a breach of the 21st. article, 13th. section of the articles of War and sentenced to be hanged (more than two thirds of the Court agreeing.)

The Commander in Chief confirms the sentence and orders the execution thereof tomorrow between the hours of three and

[37] James Gamble. He was Deputy Commissioner of Military Stores.
[38] Col. Francis Johnston, of the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment.

four o'clock in the afternoon. The officers of the day and all others whose duty it is will attend at that hour.

The corps of Artillery will send a band of Music to attend the Criminals to the place of execution.

The Pennsylvania division will furnish an escort of a Captain, one subaltern, four serjeants, four corporals two drums and fifes and fifty privates, and each division will send two hundred men and the corps of Artillery one hundred men properly officered to the place of execution.

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Morristown, February 18, 1780.

Sir: As you appear to be of opinion in your letter of this date that the loss of the cattle[39] and perhaps the failure of the attempt would be the consequence, should the team with the clothing set out for Albany under the present circumstances of the weather, I think it had better be deferred at least 'till the prospect of traveling is better.[40] I wish it had been in our power to have taken advantage of the snow in this instance. I am etc.[41]

To BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 18, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have been favd. with yours of the 12th. and 14th: instants. I had recd. the Resolve of Congress, of which you

[39] Meaning the team horses and oxen.

[40] At this point the draft has the following crossed out: "With regard to the money for contingent expences," which refers apparently to the matter mentioned in a note from Tench Tilghman to Greene, February 16: "His Excellency having just returned from riding is dressing. I have not yet shewn him your letter, because I know there is not a dollar in the military Chest, and therefore that it is out of his power to comply with your request. We may really be said to be hard run." Tilghman's note is in the *Washington Papers*.

[41] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

inclosed me a Copy, immediately from the president, and in consequence of it, instantly gave the necessary directions for the proper Returns to be brought in to enable me to furnish the States with an account of the deficiency of their Quotas of Troops. This, from the dispersed State of several of the independent Corps, the Artillery the Cavalry, and Artificers will take up a considerable time, and it is very much to be feared that the greatest part if not the whole of the time allowed for the bringing the levies into the field will elapse, before the Returns can be collected, digested and transmitted to the remote States. The Returns lately called for by the Board of War are preparing and those belonging to the Army at this Cantonment will be forwarded in a day or two. Those from the detachment of the Army at West point, Danbury, and the Horse in Connecticut as soon as possible.

My personal regard for Monsr. Gerard and Mr. Jay and the passengers on board the Confederacy made me extremely regret the disaster which befel that ship,[42] but the disappointment in our public stores which may be the consequence of Monsr. Gerards delay, is a matter of very serious import. We will however hope that we shall be able to find Arms for the Levies as they come in.

I shall impatiently expect the pleasure of the Chevalier's visit, and I am not without hopes that he will, by the time he can be ready to set out, have received such intelligences from Europe, as will enable him to judge with more precision of the prospects of the next Campaign. I am etc.

P. S. I am very desirous that every Officer should be furnished with a Copy of the Regulations of the Army, if you have

[42] The *Confederacy*, in which John Jay and Monsieur Gerard sailed for Europe, came to grief on the banks of Newfoundland and was obliged to put in at Martinique, West Indies.

not already ordered a sufficient number for that purpose, you will be pleased to do it before you leave Philad.[43]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

[Head Quarters, February 18, 1780.]

Genn: Your letter of the 15th came to hand this morning.

It is to be regretted that circumstances should have interposed to diminish the command proposed for Col. Armand. When the idea was formed of Uniting the legion late Pulaski's to his corps I had no intimation that Congress had determined on its reduction. I would hope however, that the order of the Board for its suspension will arrive in time.

With regard to the addition of Capn. Van Heer's corps, I have already signified to Col. Armand, that I did not think it adviseable to convert it to any other purpose, than that for which it was raised. Were it not for the advantages arising from such a corps I would willingly coincide in the measure. I have the honor etc.

P. S. I am this moment favored with Mr. Stodderts letter of the 7th, inclosing a memorial from Lt. Col. Stafford[44] to Congress for leave of Absence. As the recovery of his health is the cause assigned for his application I shall indulge him in his request.

In the letter of the 15th which I had the honor to write the Board, I omitted mentioning the return of the state of Major Lee's corps, conformable to the Act of Congress of the 15th of March last, which the Board will be good enough to forward with the others as also Moylans Sheldons and Armands.[45]

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[43] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[44] Lieut. Col. Samuel Safford (Stafford), of Warner's Additional Continental regiment. He retired in January, 1781, and was brigadier general of Vermont Militia in 1781–82.

[45] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry

To FRANCIS LEWIS[46]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 19, 1780.

Sir: I am honored with yours of the 15th. Inst. on the subject of the marine prisoners in New York. As I am ignorant of the particulars of the complaints which have been exhibited by them, I cannot undertake to determine how far they are well founded, but from Mr. Beatty's attention to the wants of the prisoners belonging to the land service, which has come more immediately under my notice, I should suppose he has supplied the Wants of those belonging to the marine, as far as circumstances, and the means with which he has been furnished, would permit. It will not be in his power to make monthly Returns to the Board of the number of marine prisoners in New York, except the British Commy. will make them regularly to him, as he cannot be acquainted with the prizes which are carried in; besides the exchanges of those prisoners, most of whom have been taken in private Vessels of War, having been negotiated by the State Commissaries, without the knowledge or concurrence of the continental Commy. General, he, of necessity, must have been often ignorant of the amount or circumstances of those remaining in captivity: Should the late recommendation of Congress, to put all prisoners, whether state or continental, under the direction of the Commissary General of prisoners be carried into execution, many good consequences and much more regularity than has been heretofore practiced will be the result.

I shall be happy at all times to contribute to the relief of those who are the subjects of the present letter, and shall most willingly second the views or intentions of the Board in their

[46] Chairman of the Continental Board of Admiralty.

favor, by directing the Commissary General to pay a strict obedience to their orders in the matter. I have the honor, etc.[47]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH OR OFFICER COMMANDING HIGHLAND POSTS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 19, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I wrote You on the 15th and requested You to send me as soon as possible, a Return of the number of Non Commissioned Officers and privates in the Fifteen Massachusetts Regiments, distinguishing particularly what proportion of them are inlisted for the War and the different terms of service of the Residue, digested in monthly columns. To this I intended to have added, as I informed you, All the Men belonging to the State serving in the additional and other Corps and then to have forwarded it to the Council;[48] but from the remote and dispersed situation of some of these, I am apprehensive that a good deal of delay may attend the procuring Returns of them, and from this consideration I have thought it adviseable to transmit the States in general, Returns of the Battallions assessed upon them without waiting for the Others, which will be sent as soon as they can be collected. And as it will be the means of informing the State of Massachusetts, of the condition of their Fifteen Regiments rather earlier than if the Returns were to be sent to me in the first instance, You will be pleased to forward it to the Honourable the Council yourself; made out in the particular manner I have mentioned and acquaint them that I shall take the earliest occasion circumstances will allow, to transmit them a farther return of the Men belonging to the State, who are in other Corps. You will however send me a duplicate of the Return you transmit them without loss of time, as I wish to furnish

[47] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[48] Of Massachusetts.

the Council with a full and precise state at once of all the Men they have in service and of the periods to which their engagements extend. They will receive from the President of Congress the quota of Men required of the state, and a Copy of the Act directing me to make these Returns. I am &c.[49]

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, Morristown, February 19, 1780.

Sir: Captain Campbell[50] of the 71st. Regt. the Bearer of this, has permission from His Excellency the Commander in Chief to go into New York by way of Elizabeth Town. He is either to procure the exchange of an Officer of equal Rank or he is to remain till called for. You will therefore be pleased to take a parole accordingly. You will inform Mr. Loring that Major Gardiner of the 16th. Regt. and Major Stein[51] of the Hessian troops, both of whom are at present in New York upon parole, have His Excellency's permission to remain there, until the result of the propositions for an exchange is known. You, or one of the department, will probably attend Captain Campbell to Elizabeth Town. You will wait upon General St. Clair who is desired to grant a Flag upon seeing this letter. I am &c.[52]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

February 19, 1780.

Sir: I have just received a letter from Mr. Symmes[53] one of the Supreme Judges of this state, transmitting me a copy of a

[49] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The same letter was sent to Brig. Gen. Enoch Poor at Danbury, Conn.

[50] Capt. Patrick Campbell, of the Second Battalion, Seventy-first Foot, British Army.

[51] Maj. Johann Friedrich von Stein, of the Regiment Knyphausen, German allied troops.

[52] This letter is in the writing of and is signed "T. Tilghman."

[53] John Cleves Symmes (1742–1814), chief justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. His letter of February 15 is in the *Washington Papers*.

letter of the 14th instant to the Honorable the House of Assembly, on the subject of complaints made to him by soldiers in the Continental army of their being detained in service beyond the period for which they were engaged, and recommending the speedy direction and inquiry of the Legislature into the matter.

I doubt not Mr. Symmes took this step from commendable motives, but I think it my duty to apprize your Excellency, that a compliance with his recommendation could not fail to be attended with the most pernicious consequences. The true source of the discontents he speaks of, is a dissimilarity in the terms of inlistment for the Army. Those soldiers who are truly engaged for the war, are dissatisfied at seeing others, many of whom have received equal some greater emoluments, returning home, and having it in their power to obtain new bounties and new encouragements for their services, while they held to their original engagements, are deprived of these privileges. They therefore frequently deny their being inlisted for the war and make a variety of pretences to extricate themselves. Frequent applications have been made to me and inquiries have taken place in consequence; but in almost every instance it has been found, that either the complaints have been intirely groundless, or too weakly supported to justify the discharge of the men. The cases most in their favour, which sometimes occur are these: The original inlistments have been lost; officers resigning or dismissed the service, have given certificates of their being engaged for limited periods; but where these certificates are found to clash with the constant returns and muster rolls of the regiment, which are certainly much more authentic criterions, they are disregarded. The circumstance mentioned by Mr. Symmes, of officers on their resignation or discharge turning over their men on oath to the succeeding officers is

founded on misinformation for no such custom prevails in the army. The evil proceeds in a great measure from the reverse of this cause, the one I have mentioned above. It is probable enough, from the difficulty in ascertaining the fact in particular cases, that some men may be injured. But I verily believe the instances are rare, and that in general all possible justice is done to the men in this respect. I am at least conscious that I have uniformly cultivated this spirit in the officers and discountenanced the contrary.

I shall give your Excellency an example which will serve to confirm the representation I have made. The Pennsylvania soldiers from the commencement were almost universally engaged for the war. When they saw the Eastern levies in the beginning of last campaign who had received enormous bounties (many a thousand pounds and upward,[54] for a few months) they began to compare situations to murmur and to dispute their engagements. To remove these discontents Congress, at my instance, were pleased to order a gratuity of 100 dollars to all men inlisted for the war previous to the 23d. of Jany. 1779. The intention of this gratuity was clearly explained, the men received it and gave receipts expressive of that intention. They begin now to revive their former dissatisfaction and many desertions have taken place in consequence, so unreasonable are they, or rather so fatal is the influence of that system of short inlistments, which in the first period of the war, laid the foundation of all our subsequent misfortunes.

From this view of the subject I flatter myself you will readily perceive the inexpediency of the state interposing in the affair. Such countenance to the disposition now prevailing, would soon make it epidemical. New pretenders would immediately start up in every line, new expectations, hopes and reasonings

[54] A thousand pounds in the depreciated paper currency.

would be excited; the discontent would become general and our military system would be nearly unhinged. Instead of gratifying the ill humour of the men by a mark of extraordinary attention, decisive measures to suppress it will in my opinion be most consistent with justice to the public and sound policy.[55] I confine my remarks to the inexpediency of an interference by the legislature of this state. Your Excellency's discernment will suggest other considerations which are of so delicate a nature that I shall decline particularising them. I shall only add that I have the fullest confidence the legislature will act with perfect wisdom and propriety upon the occasion and that I have the honor, etc.[56]

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 19, 1780.

Sir: About the latter end of December last I had the honor to receive a letter from His Excellency Governor Johnson dated the 27th. of October, in which he proposes an arrangement for the three companies of Artillery belonging to the state of Maryland, and asks my opinion upon it. As General Knox who is at the head of the Artillery, is consequently best acquainted with its interior circumstances and can best judge of the operation of any changes which might take place, I communicated the letter to him to know his sentiments. His answer you will find in the inclosed extract. I beg leave to add that my ideas correspond with his; and that the mode he recommends appears to me well calculated to do justice to the state, to the officers of the three companies and to promote the general

[55] At this point the draft has crossed out: "and I shall govern myself accordingly. I hope the difficulty of correcting the evil may not be increased by the ill-judged tenderness of individuals out of the army not sufficiently acquainted with the circumstances."

[56] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

good of the service. It is essential to have the corps that compose the army upon one formation, and regulated by general principles. The contrary is productive of innumerable inconveniences. This makes me wish the idea of erecting the four companies into a separate corps under the command of a Major, may be relinquished. If this is agreeable to the views of the state I shall be happy its intentions may be signified as speedily as possible to Congress, that the incorporation and arrangement may be carried into execution. I have the honor, etc.[57]

*To CHARLES PETTIT

Morris-town, February 19, 1780.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 15th. came safe to hand. I thank you for the informations it contains.

It may do to take the certificates in my name "as Attorney to Colo. George Mercer and others",[58] this will answer the purpose and may be comprized in the blank spaces. With much esteem etc. [HD. C.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Saturday, February 19, 1780.

Parole Brigades. Countersigns Baggage, Bayonets.

An Adjutant, a Drum Major and a Fife Major of the same brigade with the brigade Major of the day, will attend the grand parade every morning at troop-beating to assist in forming the guards and performing the field manœuvres.

At a General Court Martial held by order of His Excellency the Commander in Chief in Morristown the 5th. day of Febru-

[57] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.
[58] See vol. 3.

ary 1780, and by several orders and adjournments continued 'till the 14th. day of the same month, Colonel Humpton, President, John Beatty, Esquire, Commissary General of Prisoners charged with:

"An improper intercourse with the City of New York in having written for, and introduced sundry articles from thence, contrary to the resolves of Congress and repeated general orders," was tried and found guilty of a breach of His Excellency, the Commander in Chief's order of the 12th. day of december 1779, and a breach of that part of the 5th. article, section 2nd. of the rules and articles of war which respects a disobedience of orders, acquitted of every other part of the charge against him and sentenced to be reprimanded in general orders.

The General thinks Mr. Beatty's conduct in this instance extremely reprehensible. In his situation he ought to have observed a peculiar delicacy. The whole tenor of the evidence produced by himself shews that he was well aware of the impropriety of the intercourse; and though he may have generally discountenanced it, it is not an excuse for the present deviation. Every thing of this kind is, in a greater or less degree an infringement of the general association which having never been repealed must be considered as still in force, and is considered so by particular subsequent acts and by the general arrangements of Congress. It is also well known that the government of this State has been strenuous in it's endeavors to suppress the practice, and waving the question, "how far a breach of the civil law, in such a case may be a military offence," it is certainly very blamable in any officer to contravene the views of a State, especially in a matter which it evidently deems of importance. Besides this the orders from the Commander in Chief to the officers on the lines have uniformly prohibited the intercourse in the most pointed manner, and their

constant practice made those orders a matter of such notoriety that Mr. Beatty from the frequent transactions he was concerned in on the lines could not have been unacquainted with them. The plea of being ignorant of the late general order issued eight days previous to the offence is not admissable, because it is at all times in Mr. Beatty's power immediately or by his Deputies to be informed of general orders and it is his duty to be so. Mr. Beatty is released from his Arrest.

By the same General Court Martial, Lieutenant Porter[59] of the 7th. Maryland regiment was tried for, "Unofficer, unsoldierlike and villainous conduct upon Staten Island vizt. Robbing and plundering a Woman of money &c.," found guilty of the charge being a breach of Article 21st. section 13th. of the rules and articles of war and sentenced to be cashiered.

The Commander in Chief approves the sentence and orders it to take place immediately.

AFTER ORDERS

The Commander in Chief is pleased to respite the execution of Samuel Crawford 'till further orders.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Sunday, February 20, 1780.

Parole Colours. Countersigns Camp, Command.

Dead carcases in and about camp are to be buried by fatigue parties from the brigades near which they lie.

At the particular intercession of Ensign Bagley[60] and the officers of the 3rd. New York regiment, the Commander in Chief

[59] Lieut. Charles Porter.

[60] Ensign Josiah Bagley, of the Third New York Regiment. He was appointed lieutenant in March, 1780; transferred to the First New York Regiment in January, 1783; served to close of the war.

is pleased to remit the sentence against Edmund Burke of the same corps. He is therefore to be released from confinement.

The case of Burke ought to be a striking example to the soldiery of the dangerous excesses and fatal consequences into which the pernicious crime of drunkenness will frequently betray them.

To COLONEL GOOSE VAN SCHAICK

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 20, 1780.

Sir: I request that You will transmit his Excellency, Governor Clinton, as soon as possible, an Exact Return of the Non Commissioned Officers and privates in your Regiment; designating in a particular manner the number inlisted for the War, and the different terms of service of the residue digested in Monthly Columns. You will nevertheless forward me a similar Return. I am &c.[61]

CIRCULAR TO THE STATES[62]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 20, 1780.

Gentlemen: You will have received I make no doubt, a Copy of an Act of Congress of the 9th Instant, ascertaining the Quotas of Non Commissioned Officers and privates to be

[61] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

Practically the same letter was written by Tench Tilghman to Capt. Henry Bedkin, on this same day (February 20), inclosing a form of the return desired and directing Bedkin "to include those who are prisoners." Tilghman's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[62] The Tilghman draft is indorsed by Robert Hanson Harrison: "To Govrs. Greene, Trumbull, Clinton, Livingston, [President] Reed, Rodney, and [Governor] Lee. 24th President Massachusetts, President New Hampshire. Virginia written to before. Vide Letter to Govr. Reed, Livingston, Lee, Massachusetts, 10 March." The Virginia letter was dated Feb. 16, 1780, *q. v.*, and addressed to Governor Jefferson. That to New Hampshire, dated February 24, was forwarded in a brief note of the same date to the President of the Massachusetts Council (Jeremiah Powell), because of the uncertainty of "the post's going to Exeter, or as to the place where the Honorable the president of the Council of New Hampshire resides." These drafts are in the *Washington Papers*.

furnished by the Respective States for the ensuing Campaign, and directing the Men in the Additional Corps, the Guards, Artillery and Horse and the Regimented Artificers in the departments of the Quarter Master General and Commissary General of Military Stores, as well as those of the Battallions in the State lines, whose times of service do not expire before the last of September next, to be counted as part of the Quotas of the States to which they respectively belong. The Quota of the State of Massachusetts is fixed at 6070, and I have now the honor to inclose You a Special Return of the Non Commissioned Officers and privates in her Fifteen Battallions and of the Men belonging to her in , designating in a particular manner the proportion engaged for the War, and by Monthly Columns the periods when and in what proportion the services of the rest will expire. This Return so far as it concerns the Fifteen Battallions of the State, is rather old, being copied from One made the of December last, and possibly may not be entirely accurate, on account of some changes that may have happened since that period; but I think it probable that it is substantially so. I have however called upon General Heath or the Commanding Officer of the Highland posts to send me a New One, and also, to prevent delay, to forward Your Honorable Board a Duplicate, after the receipt of which I shall take the earliest occasion to transmit You a Copy besides, in case I find that it materially varies in the instance of Men inlisted for the War from the present One. There are Two or Three small detached Corps in the Army, of which I have not obtained Special Returns, and in which possibly there may be a few Men belonging to the State; if this should be the case when they are procured, I shall do myself the Honor of communicating it and their number. Your Honourable Board will

observe that by the Act, as I have already taken the liberty to mention, the Men whose engagements expire before the last of September, are not to be counted as part of the 6070 and therefore according to the Return inclosed, the deficiency to be raised is . At the time the Return was made of the 15 Battallions, it bore the fullest number of Men under every description that they could contain, as it now does of All the Men belonging to the State in the Corps which it comprehends besides, and they would most probably be found, if an actual inspection could take place, to fall a good deal short of the compliment, as there is always a material difference between an Army on paper and its real Strength. A comparative view of the Total amount of an Army borne upon every General Return and of the Column of present fit for duty and the Absentees that can be satisfactorily accounted for, demonstrates this beyond question. I have the honor, etc.[63]

[63] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison and is addressed to the Massachusetts Council. Tilghman's draft (see preceding note) is also in the *Washington Papers*. The following draft by Harrison was appended as a postscript to the letters sent to President Joseph Reed, of Pennsylvania, and Governor Thomas Sim Lee: "According to an Abstract Return obtained from the Muster Master General in October, the Total of the German Battallion, would be 208, out of which number the Inlistments of 66 expire before Septr. There will be then, supposing all the Men alive, 142 engaged for the War; but I cannot determine what proportion of these belong to Maryland or Pensilvania. *There were 53 Men of the late Rawlins's Corps at Pittsburg in December; but the terms of their Inlistments are not known, nor can I say whether they are now in service.* I have this minute received a State of the Pennsilvania part of the German Battallion, by which it appears that 116 of the 142 Men inlisted for the War belong to her. Hence it seems Maryland is only entitled to a credit of 26 in this Corps.

"N. B. The above postscript was subjoined to Governor Reed's Letter except what is included between the Asteiskes, instead of which was the following 'By a Common Regimental Return in December, the 8th Pennsilvania (Brodheads) stationed at Fort Pitt amounted in the Whole to 189 N Comd Officers and privates and Morehead's Independent Corps to 18; but how their inlistments stand I cannot precisely tell. I have informed that they are generally for limited and Short periods.'" Following this draft of the postscript are six pages of quota calculations of the various States, in the writing of Harrison and Tilghman, the figures of which were used to fill in the blanks in the circular to each State. In the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress these quota calculations are digested into exact form and clearly recorded, showing each State's deficiency.

To JAMES WILKINSON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 20, 1780.

Sir: The approach of Spring makes me anxious to know whether any or what provision has been made of thin cloathing. The first delivery of woolen Breeches and Overalls was very short of the requisite number, and when the second, which I believe will be the whole on hand, is made, there will still be a deficiency, except the states should have made larger purchases than we have any reason to expect. If, therefore, there will not be a supply of linen Overalls ready, by the time the Men ought to be in the field, the Army will be in a most distressed condition for want of them. There is now the greatest complaint for want of shirts and that will be daily increasing. Our stock of this necessary Article seems less adequate to the demand than any other. With a sufficiency of shirts, linen Overalls and shoes we could go through the summer and early fall months very well.

By the Cloathing Ordnance of the 23d. March last, you are directed to furnish Estimates of the supplies wanted for the Army; to apply to the Board of War and Commander in Chief for assistance therein, and to make returns of such estimates to them respectively. I know not what Steps you may have taken, so far as relates to the Board of War, but if you have not already entered upon some measures for that purpose, I think it highly necessary that you should set about it, without loss of time, not only for your own justification, but for the public good. I shall be ready to give you my assistance and advice towards forming the Estimates required from you.

I shall in the course of a few days have occasion to call for a general Return of the Cloathing actually wanting, from which,

I am convinced it will appear, that the stock in the hands of your assistant, and I know of no other, will be far from adequate to the present demand. I shall, in the mean time, be glad to know what are our prospects so far as they have come to your knowledge. I am &c.[64]

To COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 21, 1780.

Dear Sir: I wrote to you on the 15th. instant requiring a Return of your Regiment agreeable to the form then inclosed. Should any of the Men belong to the State of Connecticut, you will be pleased to transmit a Return of them immediately to Govr. Trumbull. You will notwithstanding this, include them in the Regimental Return which you make to me. I am &c.[65]

To MAJOR HENRY LEE OR OFFICER COMMANDING HIS CORPS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 21, 1780.

Sir: I am to request that you will transmit me, as soon as possible, an exact Return of the number of the non Commissioned Officers and privates of your Corps, mounted and dismounted designating in a particular manner the states to which they belong, what proportion of them are inlisted for the War, and the different terms of service of the residue, digested in monthly Columns. Inclosed you have the form of a Return.

You will be pleased to transmit a return agreeable to the form of such of the Men as belong to the State of New Jersey immediately to Governor Livingston who will be at Trenton

[64] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[65] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The same letter was sent to Col. Elisha Sheldon.

with the Assembly; but those men are to be, notwithstanding, included in the Return which is to be made to me. I am &c.[66]

To MAJOR LEVIN WINDER

Head Quarters, Morristown, February 22, 1780.

Sir: By recent accounts it appears that the enemy have drawn off their horse from Staten Island to York Island. Though we cannot determine the motives which gave rise to this move, yet as it may be intended to carry on some enterprise against such part of our out posts as lay most exposed to their excursions. I have to recommend to you an increase of vigilance and precaution to obviate or guard against such an event. The badness of the roads is by no means a preventative. This very circumstance may be an encouragement to such an undertaking, by the state of security in which it may be supposed to place us. It will be adviseable to keep an eye on such part of the North river about you as still admits of a passage on the ice. You will make this communication to the officer who relieves you. I am &c.[67]

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Morris-town, February 22, 1780.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 18th.

Secresy in the business you have been requested to put in train is so essentially necessary that those who are willing to embark in it may rest assured that not even a whisper shall be heard from hence.

It is to be presumed that every circumspection and caution that the case will admit of will be used to prevent a discovery of

[66] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[67] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

any of the agents; but if, notwithstanding, the one at Secaucus should be suspected and prosecuted, I must, in behalf of the public, stand between him and the consequences of a prosecution. It may not be amiss however to observe, by way of caution, that the great pursuit of those who heretofore have been employed in this business, is traffic, and this being carried on with avidity the end for wch. they were engaged was defeated, because suspicions on our part, and a desire of rendering themselves useful to the enemy, to accomplish with more ease their own lucrative plans, gave a turn to the business which operated much to our prejudice.

I do not know how easy it may be for the agent at Secaucus to obtain free access to the Intelligencer at New-York; but it is absolutely necessary he should. It is the hinge on which the whole turns and without it, nothing can be done to effect. Hence, is it not necessary to have a person on the No. River, at or near Bergen town, who can, at all times, have equal access to the City and Secaucus unsuspected? Is it not necessary also to have some person between Second River and head Quarters? These matters you will consider, and determine on. I need not add that the fewer hands a business of this sort is in, the better it will be executed, and less risk there is of a discovy.

Verbal accts. in passing through several hands, and some heads which may not be very clear, are liable to such transmutation as serve to confound and perplex rather than inform; for this reason the Agent in New-York should give all his intelligence in writing which may be done fully and with security (even if the letters should fall into the hands of the enemy) in the manner I shall hereafter communicate. His Letters may be addressed to the Agent at second River, or any other (more proper) person, if one can be thought of; but whether he will write in his own name, or under an assumed one, must be left

to himself to determine when he comes to understand the mode for communicating the intelligence.

The persons intermediate between him and me (serving as mere vehicles of conveyance) will know nothing of the contents, consequently the avenues leading to a discovery of the person in New York (who should be shielded on all sides) will be much lessened and guarded.

The compensation for these services had better be fixed, beforehand, because loose agreements are seldom rewarded to the mutual satisfaction of both parties. I shall be glad to see you to morrow morning that I may have some further conversation with you on this subject. With esteem etc.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 22, 1780.

Dear Sir: I was yesterday informed that the enemy had removed their Horse from Staten Island to York Island. They had also some days ago, impressed all the Sleighs within their reach in Bergen and carried them over to New York, but they have returned them upon the melting of the snow. It should seem from this that they had had some enterprise in view which may not yet be totally laid aside. I have thought it prudent to communicate this intelligence to you, that you may put the advanced parties upon their Guard. I am &c.[68]

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Head Quarters, Morristown, February 22, 1780.

Sir: His Excellency was on the point of going out to Dinner, as your letter of this date came to hand. He commands me to acknowledge it, and to request that as soon as you form

[68] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

your ultimate determination as to the time for the proposed enterprise[69] that you will make him acquainted with it.

The disposition which the enemy must have to gain a precise knowledge of your situation, more especially under the present circumstances of the ice, and the evidence in favor of Mr Deane[70] being but weak, the General has thought it most prudent, to detain him at least for a short time at Bottle hill, under the restrictions of a parole. I am &c.[71]

To JOHN CLEVES SYMMES

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 22, 1780.

Sir: I have been honored with your letter of the 15th. instant inclosing one of the 14th to the Legislature of this State. I thought it my duty in consequence to write a letter to His Excellency The Governor, of which the inclosed is a copy.

In addition to what I have there said, I cannot forbear observing that it is of great importance the different powers in the State should carefully avoid the least interference with each other; and in the present case I am clearly of opinion the matter in question falls properly within no other jurisdiction than that of Congress and the military authorities they have been pleased to establish. Every discussion of this kind however is extremely disagreeable and it were to be wished the strictest delicacy could at all times be observed not to furnish occasions.

I take this opportunity of remarking on a practice that has lately prevailed, of a very injurious tendency. Several soldiers

[69] Against Powles Hook, N. J.

[70] Deane served as a volunteer in the Eighty-fourth Foot, British Army.

[71] This letter is signed "James McHenry."

On February 27 Washington wrote again to St. Clair a brief note acknowledging the receipt of some further information respecting Deane. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

McHenry wrote also to Commissary of Prisoners Beatty, this same day (February 22), ordering him to keep Deane "in your neighbourhood on parole in some well affected family till his Excellency's further orders." McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

have applied to me for their discharges, producing affidavits by themselves before some of the justices of this County of their terms of service having expired. If this kind of testimony by the interested party himself, inadmissible on every principle, were to have effect the dissolution of the army would soon follow. Unhappily few of the common soldiery who wish to be disengaged from the service would scruple right or wrong to avail themselves of such an expedient. This practice therefore cannot operate the release of the soldier and only affords a new pretext for discontent. If you view the matter in the same light, I doubt not you will use your influence to put a stop to it. I have the honor, etc.[72]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ENOCH POOR OR OFFICER COMMANDING AT DANBURY

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 22, 1780.

Sir: . . .[73] you may put your advanced parties upon their guard and keep every thing in readiness at your Cantonment to give the enemy a proper reception, should you be their object. I would advise the Officers to avoid drawing together a quantity of Baggage or any kind of Stores, as you may be obliged to change your quarters suddenly upon a move of the enemy. I am &c.[74]

To COLONEL CHRISTOPHER GREENE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 22, 1780.

Sir: I am to request that you will transmit me, as soon as possible an exact Return of the number of non Commd. Officers

[72]The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

[73]The omitted portion is identical with that part of Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. William Heath relating to the same matter, the same date as this letter, *q. v.*

[74]The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

and privates of your Regiment designating in a particular manner what proportion of them are inlisted for the War and the different terms of service of the residue digested in monthly Columns. You cannot be too expeditious in forwarding me this Return; a duplicate of which you will be pleased to deliver to His Excellency the Govr. of Rhode Island. I am &c.[75]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 23, 1780.

Sir: I do myself the honor to inclose your Excellency a New York paper of the 21st, which contains his British Majesty's speech and several other Articles of European intelligence.

Your Excellency's favor of the 12th: inclosing Copies of sundry matters respecting the State of Georgia and the exchange of Brigr. Genl. Elbert,[76] only reached me last Evening. I have the honor etc.[77]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 23, 1780.

Gentlemen: By the regulations the non-commissioned officers are to be armed with swords as a mark of distinction and to enable them the better to maintain the authority due to their stations. This necessary arrangement has not yet been carried into execution. By some returns I have seen there appears to have been a considerable number of Hessian hangers at Albany, though I find no mention of them in the last returns of The Commissary of Military stores. I presume the Board

[75] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[76] Brig. Gen. Samuel Elbert, of the Georgia Militia. He had been taken prisoner at Briar Creek, Ga., in March, 1779; was exchanged and again taken prisoner at Charleston, S. C., in May, 1780; exchanged and served to close of the war.

[77] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

know where they are and I should think it would be adviseable to have these and any others that may be brought to the army distributed.

There is a great deficiency of drums fifes and standards. I presume the necessary measures are taking to procure them with other articles of a similar kind. I have the honor, etc.[78]

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Morris Town, February 23, 1780, half past 10 A. M.

Sir: I have this moment received yours of seven OClock this morning. I am apprehensive with you that the circumstances you mention will prevent the execution of your project; for which reason and the badness of the weather I delay the march of the covering party 'till I hear further from you. If the intelligence you expect proves favourable to your design I shall be obliged to you to dispatch a second messenger, and I will take measures here accordingly.

Will not the state of the moon be unfriendly to your attempt towards Morning? I am &c.[79]

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 23, 1780.

Sir: I had last night the honor to receive Your Excellency's letter of the 16th. with the papers you have been pleased to refer to me. There is certainly a good deal of weight in the observations and objections which Colo. Hazen has made, and it were very much to be wished, that the supplies of Cloathing and necessaries in every instance were perfectly equal to the officers

[78] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[79] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

and men respectively, throughout the army; but as these from the nature of our present establishment proceed from different sources, I do not know how the inconveniences complained of are to be remedied. It has been the pleasure of Congress by repeated Acts, and by a very recent one, to recommend it to the States to provide for the Officers and men belonging to them in the additional and other Corps, not originally apportioned on them in the same manner they provide for those of their State Lines. This being the case, and as they have no other mode of relief, or at least that I know of, I do not see that it can be objected to in the instance of Major Reed[80] and the other Officers who have addressed your Excellency. It can only be considered that they are more fortunate than the rest belonging to their Regiment. Nor is this discrimination peculiar to Colo Hazens Corps. There are many others in the same disagreeable predicament. It holds extensively between the Troops of different Lines; for while the Officers and men of some enjoy most necessary comforts, those of others are destitute of any. I return Your Excellency the papers again, and have the honor, etc.[81]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Wednesday, February 23, 1780.

Parole Franklin. Countersigns Fleet, Feast.

From the remoteness of General Stark's and Jersey brigades from the grand parade their camp guards are excused from attending there, not only in the case mentioned in the order of the 16th., but in general, when the roads are very wet and bad. The officers of the day are to be notified in time on parade when this happens.

[80] Maj. James Randolph Reid.
[81] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Thursday, February 24, 1780.

Parole Geometry. Countersigns Gin, Ginger.

The Commander in Chief is pleased to remit the sentence against Samuel Crawford; He is to be released from confinement.

The frequent occasions the General takes to pardon, where strict justice would compel him to punish ought to operate on the gratitude of offenders to the improvement of their morals.

To CAPTAIN JOSHUA TRAFTON[82]

February 24, 1780.

Sir: Serjeant John Cambridge of Colo Sherburne's Regiment has represented to His Excellency the Commander in Chief that his Inlistment will expire the 10th of Sepr next, and that from the peculiarity of his circumstances he wishes to a discharge; but not without engaging a Good Soldier to supply his place and to serve for that time. He has informed the General that Samuel Sabens of the Regiment answers this description; that his time of service will expire the 4th of next month and that he is willing to enlist to serve till the 10th of Sepr. in his room, on certain conditions agreed on between them. The account Serjeant Cambridge has given appears to be confirmed by a Certificate under your signature and those of Lieutenant Sherburne's[83] and Ensign Shearmans.[84] If the facts he repre-

[82] Of Sherburne's Additional Continental regiment. He resigned in April, 1780.

[83] Lieut. Benjamin Sherburne, of Sherburne's Additional Continental regiment. He was transferred to the First Rhode Island Regiment in January, 1781, and served to December, 1783.

[84] Ensign Henry Sherman, of Sherburne's Additional Continental regiment. He was taken prisoner at Paramus, N. J., in April, 1780; retained in Olney's Rhode Island Battalion in May, 1781; served to December, 1783.

sents are true, His Excellency, on Samuel Saben's previously inlisting to serve in his room for the time he is engaged, will have no objection to your giving Cambridge a discharge. I am &c.[85]

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 24, 1780.

Dear Sir: I recd. yours of yesterday late last night. I am sorry that the state of the Ice did not admit of the prosecution of your enterprise at the time you had determined to carry it into execution; but perhaps this change of weather may again make the passage secure.

You will be pleased to come up on Monday next if the situation of matters below will permit. Your presence is necessary as a Witness on the trial of Lt. Colo. Howard, and the Court have been obliged to adjourn for want of your evidence. Should anything turn up between this and Monday which you think will prevent your attendance on that day, you will be pleased to signify it previously. I am &c.

P. S. I shall expect the pleasure of your Company at dinner on Monday.[86]

To DOCTOR PHILIP TURNER[87]

Head Quarters, Morristown, February 24, 1780.

Sir: I have to acknowledge your letter of the 3d instant with its inclosure.

It would give me much satisfaction to find so necessary a department as the medical, on the most unexceptionable

[85] This letter is in the writing of and is signed "Rob: H: Harrison, Secy."

[86] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[87] Surgeon general, Eastern Department, and hospital physician and surgeon in October, 1780. He retired in June, 1781.

footing;[88] But as I do not undertake to judge in cases of this nature, I would imagine that Congress will adopt such changes as may appear best calculated to this end, and to reconcile any want of harmony which may have crept into the present system. I am etc.[89]

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, February 25, 1780.

Dear Sir: I recd. yours late last evening, inclosing Colo. Biddles representation of the state of our forage,[90] which is indeed alarming. As the State of Jersey, on which we must depend untill a supply can be brought from a distance, have, in consequence of the recommendation of Congress, taken upon themselves to procure a certain quantity of provision and forage, I think Colo. Biddle ought without loss of time to obtain from Mr. Dunham,[91] the Superintendant, as accurate an account as possible of the quantities which the several Agents have already purchased, and also of their expectations and if, as he seems to suspect, there have not been sufficient exertions used, he should immediately repair to Trenton where the Assembly are sitting, and lay before them a state of his Magazines and urge the necessity of taking the most vigorous measures for keepg. up the supply of Forage, till the Navigation and Roads will permit

[88] Turner's letter (February 3) told of personal antagonisms in the medical department and charged that the department was "too large, too Expensive and ought to be Curtailed, our Numbers are more then are Needed." He submitted a plan for a new establishment, which he had submitted to Roger Sherman, who laid it before one of the Medical Committee of Congress, "who highly appoved of it." Turner's plan is filed with his letter in the *Washington Papers*.

[89] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

[90] Biddle's letter to Greene (February 24), in the *Washington Papers*, describes the failure of the "Specific Supplies" system adopted by Congress. His agents were compelled, by law, to cease purchasing forage in those States which undertook to furnish their quota of supplies. These supplies were not forthcoming, and Biddle reported that his hay supply was exhausted and that he had only grain sufficient for 24 days. Failure of forage meant, of course, inability to transport food to camp.

[91] Col. Azariah Dunham. He was assistant commissary of purchases in New Jersey.

us to bring that forward, which we may hope is procured to the southward. I suppose while we are short of hay, there will be a necessity of issuing so large a quantity as eight quarts of Grain per day for each Horse; but when there is Hay I think the quantity of Grain may be reduced.

Be pleased to let me know whether the Returns which the Board of War called for some little time ago have been transmitted, and if they have not, when you think they will be ready. I am &c.[92]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 26, 1780.

Gentlemen: I have received the inclosed proceedings of a General Court Martial held by order of the Board. As I am not informed of any provision having been made for vesting the power of appointing Courts Martial in the Board (which is too confined in many respects), I should not think myself at liberty to confirm the proceedings of the present Court, were there no objections to the manner of the proceedings themselves. But they are too summary and the evidence not fully enough stated to justify an approbation of decisions which affect life.[93] No mention is made of the corps to which the prisoners belong. The corporal punishments too are irregular, exceeding the limits prescribed by our military code, which is in this instance also defective, and in the case of Capt Parke[94] he is found guilty of the additional crime of forgery though the charge against him only relates to fraud.

I flatter myself I need not assure the Board that the scruples now suggested do not proceed from the least disposition to

[92] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[93] The Board's reply (March 10) in the *Washington Papers*, inclosed a copy of the resolve of Apr. 17, 1778, empowering it to order courts-martial.

[94] Capt.-Lieut. Theophilus Parke, of Flower's Artillery Artificer regiment. He was cashiered in March, 1780.

bring their powers in any instance into question, which is the remotest of any thing from my intention. But as the regular administration of justice, as well in the military as civil line is of the essential importance and as the regular constitution of Courts is a fundamental point towards it, The Board will be sensible it is my duty to be satisfied on this head before I give my concurrence in any trials where there is room to doubt. I shall therefore be obliged to them to give me the necessary information concerning their powers in this respect, lest upon recollection it may be found that sufficient provision has not been made, I inclose an order for holding a new Court, that the offenders may not escape, and I could wish a hint may be given to the Gentleman acting as Judge advocate, to be more explicit and particular in designating the circumstances of the crime and of the evidence. I inclose the proceedings for the inspection of the Board.

Inclosed I send the Board the returns lately called for by them through the Inspector General from this part of the army. The moment the rest are received, they shall be forwarded. I have the honor, etc.[95]

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, February 26, 1780.

Dr Sr: In answer to your note on the subject of Col Biddles letter I can only say that I have already recommended his waiting upon the Legislature[96] and I still think he will have it in his power to make representations for the good of the service; but though I wish the measure to take place, I would not press it or do violence to the scruples which I cannot but

[95] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.
[96] Of New Jersey.

acknowledge are natural in Col Biddles situation. But if he cannot reconcile it to his feelings to go, I shall be glad some other mode may be fallen upon to give the assembly the necessary information and excite to those exertions which the exigency of our affairs requires. I am &c.[97]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 26, 1780.

Sir: Since I had the Honor of addressing Your Excellency on the 20th Instant, It has been found, that there was an Error in the Return then transmitted, with respect to the number of Men belonging to the State in the Artillery. Instead of 4 there are 77 in Lamb's Battallion, 76 of which are for the War, and 7 in Captain Walker's Company for the same time. I have the Honor etc.[98]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 26, 1780.

Dear Sir: I was last night honored with your Excellency's letter of the 22d. I had on the 20th. transmitted you as accurate a Return as could then be obtained of the number of Men serving in the three Battalions of the state and in the additional Corps. I have since reced. a Return of Major Lees Corps dated the 20th. Decemr. last, in which I find fifty non Commd. and privates belonging to the State; that number is therefore to be deducted from the deficiency struck in my letter of the 20th. I have the honor etc.[99]

[97] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

[98] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

[99] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To WILLIAM FITZHUGH[1]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 26, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 9th. inclosing letters to your son, Colo. Ramsey, and Mr. Williams of New York. I am in hourly expectation of seeing Colo. Ramsey, who I am told is coming out with propositions of Exchange, which I sincerely hope will be such as may be accepted with honor and advantage to the States and to the individuals concerned.

I had flattered myself that the spirited formation of your law, for the supply of the Army with provisions, would have been attended with the most salutary effects; but there really seems to be an almost general combination against every measure calculated to releive the public from the enormous load of debt and distress in which she is involved.

Mrs. Washington makes a return of her Compliments to Mrs. Fitzhugh, and I beg leave to assure you that I am, etc.[2]

[N.Y.H.S.]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 27, 1780.

Gentlemen: I have been honored with yours of the 22d. accompanied by the Returns of sundry of the additional and detached Corps, from which, and from those which I had been enabled to collect in and near the Army I have furnished the respective States with a tolerable accurate account of the deficiencies of their Quotas. I have informed them, that should any more Men appear to their Credit upon a full collection of all the returns, they shall without loss of time be made acquainted with their numbers.

[1] Of Maryland.
[2] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

With respect to Lieut. Colo. Conolly,[3] I should think he might as well remain in his present situation untill the result of the proposed meeting of Comms. to settle an exchange of prisoners is known. I am informed that I may very soon expect an answer to my letter on that subject, which went by the Gentlemen who came out with terms. Should this Business be again interrupted, I would then wish the Board to determine upon the propriety of permitting Colo. Conolly to go into New York upon parole. As there is some thing in his case different from common prisoners of War, I have never considered him as under my direction. I have the honor etc.[4]

To MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 27, 1780.

My Dear Sir: I have been successively favoured with your letters of the 7th of November 23rd of December and 8th. of January last. I am extremely happy to find both for the public and for your sake, that your prospects were less gloomy when you wrote the two last than when you wrote the first. I hope you have had the time necessary to complete your defences on the land side and will be able effectually to baffle every attempt of the enemy in your quarter. Hitherto our affairs to the Southward have certainly been more prosperous than could have been expected from circumstances, and if the issue is not favourable I am thoroughly persuaded it will not be your fault.

The succession of tempestuous weather which immediately followed the departure of the fleet that sailed from New York the latter end of December we have been flattering ourselves

[3] Lieut. Col. John Connolly. (See note 78, p. 181, in vol. 4.)
[4] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

will at least retard and disconcert their Southern operation. We have yet had no distinct account of them; it will be fortunate indeed if they have been driven off and dispersed.

In addition to the advices you were obliging enough to communicate, I have just seen official accounts from the Governor of Havanna of the success of the Spaniards in the Floridas.[5] If the remaining posts fall it will be a very important stroke; and in all probability the operations there will have a favourable influence upon our affairs in your quarter. Though perhaps it may not be probable, it is not impossible, The British General if he has discretionary power on hearing of the progress of the Spaniards in the Floridas, may suspend his original plan and turn his attention that way, and endeavour to defend their own territories rather than attempt conquests.

Don Juan De Merailles, the Spanish agent, in a letter of the 18th. communicating the foregoing intelligence has the following paragraph;[6] "By royal order, I am very strongly charged to influence your Excellency to make the greatest diversion with the troops of the United States against those of the enemy in Georgia, to the effect of attracting their attention and disabling them from sending succours to Pensacola and Mobille which the Governor of Louisiana is to attack auxiliated with sea and land forces, which were prepared at Havanna with all the needful and ready to sail when the station would permit." This I transmit you for your Government satisfied that you will do every thing to effect the diversion desired, which the situation of your force and that of the enemy combined with other

[5] "The morning of the 7th. Septr. took the Fort of Mantshak by Storm." The Baton Rouge fort fell September 21 and that of "Painmure" at Natchez was included in its surrender. The prisoners amounted to 550 regular troops, 8 vessels and other boats, and 50 sailors. This letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[6] The quotation is from an English translation forwarded by Miralles with his letter of February 18.

circumstances will permit. If they act offensively against the Carolinas your whole attention will necessarily be engaged at home; but if they should direct their force elsewhere, you may possibly have it in your power to pursue measures favourable to the operations of the Spaniards and to the immediate interests of the United States.

You will long since have been informed that your information with respect to the Virginia troops being detached to the Southward was good. Though they could be ill spared from this army, I thought we should have less to fear here than you there without them; and it appeared upon the whole advisable to throw the weight of Virginia into the defence of our Southern extremity. I should have given you early notice of it but I relied upon its being done by Congress. With the most affectionate regard etc.[7]

To JUAN DE MIRALLES

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 27, 1780.

Sir: I have the honor of your letter of the 18th. inclosing an extract of one from His Excellency The Governor of Havannah. I am happy in the opportunity of congratulating you on the important successes it announces to the arms of His Catholic Majesty, which I hope are a prelude to others more decisive. These events will not only advance the immediate interest of his Majesty, and promote the common cause, but they will probably have a beneficial influence on the affairs of the Southern states at the present juncture.

The want of any certain intelligence of the fleet which sailed from New York, I should attribute to their having been

[7] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

disconcerted in their voyage, by the tempestuous weather which prevailed for some time after their departure. A variety of circumstances combining proved that the intention of that embarkation was for the Southern states. All my intelligence agreed in this point; the composition of the detachment, Governor Martin and several refugees from South and North Carolina having embarked in the fleet; the current of the English accounts, by which it appears that General Clinton was expected to be in South Carolina so early as November, in which he was probably prevented by Count D'Estaing's operations in Georgia; these circumstances conspire to satisfy me that the Carolinas were the objects: But notwithstanding this, I think the precautions you are taking to put the Spanish dominions upon their guard are wise. It can have no ill-consequence and it is adviseable to be provided against all contingencies. It would not be surprising if the British General on hearing of the progress of the Spanish arms in the Floridas should relinquish his primitive design and go to the defence of their own territories.

I shall with the greatest pleasure comply with your request for giving you information of all the movements of the enemy that come to my knowledge, which may in any manner interest the plans of your Court; and I have written to General Lincoln agreeable to your intimation. Every motive will induce him to do whatever may be in his power to effect the diversion desired. If the enemy prosecute the plan which I suppose to have been originally intended he will necessarily find his whole attention employed at home on the defensive; but if they direct their force to another quarter, I am persuaded he will make the best use of his to give them all possible annoyance and distraction. I have the honor, etc.[8]

[8] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morris town,
Monday, February 28, 1780.

Parole Knowledge. Countersigns Kidder, Key.

Notwithstanding the orders for building guard huts, the officers of the day still report a deficiency. The General again enjoins that those brigades which have not yet provided them, will without fail immediately do it; No excuse will be admitted for delay beyond this week.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Tuesday, February 29, 1780.

Parole Lincoln. Countersigns Law, Logic.

Regimental returns of cloathing actually wanting, to be made as soon as possible to the Adjutant General.

The State Cloathiers or their Assistants are also to make exact returns to the Cloathier General of all cloathing in their hands.[9]

By a division General Court Martial held in the Pennsylvania line the 25th. instant by order of Colonel Johnston,[10] Commandant, Colonel Stewart,[11] President, Captain John McClellan[12] of the 1st. Pennsylvania regiment was tried for,

[9] According to Assistant Clothier Gen. John Moylan's letter of Mar. 1, 1780, to Tench Tilghman, the clothing then in store amounted to: "4050 Coats. 3146 Vests. 2977 Breeches and Overalls. 9330 Hose. 10730 Shoes. 7916 Shirts. 7504 Hatts. 205 Blankets. 340 Pair Boots. 840 Cloaks and Watch Coats. 1422 Leather Breeches. 6856 Wollen Caps. 2794 Mitts. 254 Linnen Caps. 437 Hunting frocks. 2634 Canvas Overalls. 4834 Pair Buckles. 401 Sword Belts. 6134 Socks. 2396 Stocks." Moylan's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[10] Col. Francis Johnston, of the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment.

[11] Col. Walter Stewart, of the Second Pennsylvania Regiment.

[12] He was wounded at Green Spring, Va., in July, 1781, and retired in January, 1783.

"Neglect of duty while commanding the Morristown Picket" and acquitted.

The Commander in Chief approves the sentence and orders Captn. McClellan to be discharged from arrest.

To BARON DE KALB

Head Quarters, Morris Town, February 29, 1780.

Dr. Sir: A particular piece of business has occurred, which will require Major General St. Clair to leave for the present, the command of the troops advanced below, and which will probably occasion him to be absent from it, till the middle or latter end of the week after next; It is therefore my wish that you should supply his place and that you will proceed as soon as you conveniently can and take the command. If you can do it to day, it will be so much the better, as Genl St. Clair is already in Camp. I have nothing in particular to communicate to you upon the occasion, besides what is contained in the inclosed Extract from Instructions originally given to Brigadier General Parsons on the 13 of December, when he went on this command; to the objects of which you will be pleased to attend. I have the Honor, etc.[13]

To LEWIS PINTARD

Head Quarters, February 29 1780.[14]

Sir: It is proposed that a meeting of Commissioners on the subject of prisoners should take place the 9th instant at Amboy. As your presence will be necessary there to give Mr. Beatty information which he will want towards an adjustment of accounts, I have requested the permission of His

[13] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.
[14] The draft is dated merely February, but is indorsed February 29.

Excellency Lt. General Knyphausen[15] for you to repair there at the time appointed. You will therefore be pleased to apply to him to know his pleasure. I am etc.[16]

To BARON VON KNYPHAUSEN

Head Quarters, February 29, 1780.

Sir: I had not the Honor to receive Your Excellency's Letter of the 19th till Yesterday. The place you have proposed for the meeting of Commissioners is perfectly agreeable to me; but from the delay that has attended the conveyance of your Excellency's Letter, I beg leave to postpone the time of their interview till Thursday the 9th. of March. Amboy will be considered as a Neutral place during their negociation, and no Troops will be permitted to enter it on my part, except a Commissioned Officer with a Serjeant and Twelve privates, Infantry as Guards.

Major General St. Clair and Lt. Colonels Carrington and Hamilton are the Officers who will be appointed to meet the Gentlemen Your Excellency mentions, as Commissioners, and they will come with full powers to negotiate a General Cartel.

Major General Phillips will be at liberty to bring with him any Officers of his suite that he may think proper. The Commissary General of prisoners on our part will be directed to attend the Commissioners. It will also be necessary that Mr. Pintard Agent for prisoners at New York should communicate with our Commissary to give him information which will be essential in an adjustment of Accounts. I shall be therefore happy if there is no Objection to his repairing to Amboy at the time of the meeting. I have the Honor etc.[17]

[15] Hamilton, often weak in spelling proper names, and especially so in foreign names, spelled Knyphausen as Knyphussen. It has been corrected by Richard Kidder Meade.

[16] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

[17] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM PHILLIPS

Head Quarters, February 29, 1780.

Sir: I yesterday received your Letter of the 21st accompanied by one from His Excellency Lt General Knyphuyssen proposing a meeting of Commissioners the 6th. of next Month, at Amboy. Particular reasons have induced me to defer the meeting till the 9th, when three Gentlemen on our part will be authorised to enter upon the business at the place appointed. You have been rightly informed that it is perfectly agreeable to me you should be upon the Commission. I hope it may fully answer the interesting purpose intended.

With pleasure I consent to your bringing with you such gentlemen and others of your suite as you think proper and to your making the little excursions you propose for the benefit of exercise.

Major Gardner[18] has already had permission to remain 'till the result of the negociation. I have the honor etc.[19]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN STARK OR OFFICER COMMANDING HIS BRIGADE

February, 1780.

Sir: In a circular letter of the 22nd. of January, I transmitted the Inspector's reports of december delineating several defects and abuses and exhorting to effectual measures for remedying them. I observe some further matters in the reports of January which require notice. Among other things, though much less than in several of the other brigades, there is still too great a waste of arms, accoutrements and ammunition since the last

[18] Maj. Valentine Gardiner.
[19] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

inspection. The same may be said also of the deficiency of cloathing in Col Sherburnes regiment.

In Col Angels Regiment there are arms and accoutrements in possession of the Regiment not in the hands of the men. This is contrary to the Regulations, agreeable to which they ought to be deposited with the Brigade conductor. These also prescribe penalties for unnecessary loss and waste which if carefully inflicted would correct the evil.

How happens it that there are musicians returned as rank and file in Colonel Webbs Regiment who do no duty in the line? This seems to be an abuse and to require a remedy.

There are several men reported unfit for service. You will have them examined by the Surgeon General and either transferred to the Invalid Corps or discharged as their respective cases may require.

In all the weekly returns many men are borne unfit for duty wanting cloaths; yet in these reports there appears to be cloathing in Webbs and Jacksons Regiments undistributed. The Cloathing on hand ought to be issued to the men most in want.

In the report of Sherburnes Regiment, there is no mention of Cartridge boxes. This probably is an omission of the Inspector's, but I shall be glad to have it explained.

I must request to be satisfied without delay concerning the situation of the 20 men who have been so long at Easton, that proper steps may be taken. They ought either to rejoin the Regiment or be struck off its roll.[20]

To COLONEL THOMAS CRAIG

Head Quarters, March 1, 1780.

Sir: I have received your favor on the subject of Lieutenant Armstrong.[21] Previous to the receipt, the sentence had been

[20] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

[21] Lieut. John Armstrong, of the Third Pennsylvania Regiment.

issued in Genl. Orders. You will there observe that Lt. Armstrong was found guilty and sentenced to be discharged, but that the Genl. in consequence of the favorable character given him of the Gentn. has restored him to his rank and command. So far from thinking your commission a trouble, he assured me if it was not in the line of my duty, I should be happy to serve you. Yours &c.[22]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Wednesday, March 1, 1780.

Parole Life. Countersigns Luck, Laurels.

The honorable the Congress having been pleased by a late resolution to annex the Mustering Department to that of the Inspection of the Army, 'Till the business is more perfectly arranged the Sub Inspectors and Inspectors of brigades are requested to muster the troops in the divisions and brigades to which they are respectively attached in the manner it has been usually done. The Musters both for January and February are to be included in one roll, when complete, the whole are to be delivered to the Adjutant General.

By a Division General Court Martial of the Pennsylvania line, Colonel Stewart, President; Lieutenant John Armstrong of the 3rd. Pennsylvania regiment was tried for "Ungentlemanlike behavior in attempting to impose a falshood on Colonel Craig respecting his attendance on the regimental parade," and found guilty of a breach of the 21st. article 14th section of the articles of war and sentenced to be discharged the service.

The Commander in Chief confirms the sentence; but from the general good character he has heard of Lieutenant Armstrong, He hopes what he is charged with, proceeded rather

[22] This letter is in the writing of and is signed "R. K. M. A. D. C."

from a want of recollection than from any ill design, and is induced to restore him to his rank and command.

He is released from arrest.

By a division General Court Martial held at the encampment of the Jersey Brigade the 24th. day of February last, by order of Major General Lord Stirling, Colo. Ogden President, Cornelius Nix charged with "Deserting to the enemy twice, endeavoring to get there a third time and piloting a british prisoner of war into their lines," was tried and found guilty of all the charges (except deserting twice) and sentenced to suffer death, more than two thirds of the Court agreeing.

The Commander in Chief approves the sentence.

By the same Court Emanuel Evans, soldier in the 3rd. Jersey regiment charged with "Deserting to the enemy and taken in arms against the States," was tried and found guilty of the charges and sentenced to suffer Death, more than two thirds of the Court agreeing.

The Commander in Chief approves the sentence.

George Brown charged with "Deserting to the enemy and being taken in Arms against the States," was tried by the same Court and found guilty of the 2nd. charge and sentenced to do duty on board an armed vessel during the war.

The Commander in Chief approves the sentence and orders that the Prisoner be sent by the first opportunity to the Navy Board in Philadelphia with a copy of the sentence.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Thursday, March 2, 1780.

Parole Military. Countersigns Men, Money.

All guards detached from the line will parade on the grand parade at troop beating, that they may be inspected by the officers of the day before marching off.

On account of the badness of the roads the attendance of the camp guards on the grand parade is dispensed with till further orders. The officers of the day will visit them as usual at their respective posts.

To COLONEL JOSEPH WARD

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 2, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I am to acknowledge your letter of the 29th. of February last.

The favorable sentiments of a good man, and one who has executed diligently and faithfully the duties of his station, cannot fail being agreeable. I thank you for your good wishes; and mine, be assured, towards you, are not less sincere for your happiness [and prospery. in whatever walk of life you may go into.] I am, etc.[23]

*To FIELDING LEWIS

Head Quarters, Morris-town, March 2, 1780.

Dear Sir: Before Colo. Fairfax left Virginia he prevailed on me to accept a power of attorney for the general superintendance of his business in that State. Upon my appointment to the command of the American Army I wrote him that it was no longer in my power to do justice to the trust he had reposed in me and begged him to make choice of some other for this purpose. this request I repeated in several letters but never obtained an answer till lately. He now desires that I wd. prevail on Mr. Nicholas, yourself, or some other Gentn. of character to do him this favor. I have already wrote to Mr. Nicholas on this subject and shall be glad in case of his refusal to know if you

[23] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

will undertake the business as I believe his Steward, Collector of Rents, and seat at Belvoir, stand much in need of the superintending eye of some person that will see justice done him.

An Answer to this Letter as soon as possible will much oblige Dr. Sir, Yr., etc.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH OR OFFICER COMMANDING THE HIGHLANDS

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 2, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have been favd. with yours of the 19th: ulto. with the several papers to which it refers. You will be pleased to grant Capt. Flowers[24] of the 3rd. Massachusetts Regt. a dismission from the service, the Certificates transmitted being sufficient, and inform me of the time when his resignation took place, that I may register it. If the number of Field Officers with the first Brigade and the state of Colo. Nixons own Regiment will admit of his absence for a reasonable time, I had rather grant him a furlough than accept his resignation. He will consider of this and take his measures accordingly.

The mistake in the arrangement of the Subalterns of the 8th: or Colo. Jacksons is so palpable upon General Pattersons Certificate, that it ought without doubt to be amended. If the Commissions, which Colo. Jackson has retained are sent to me, I will transmit them to the Board of War and have them made out agreeable to the true arrangement. I cannot give any determination upon the Cases in the 5th. and 12th. Regiments, as I have not a Copy of the arrangement which was finally settled at West point and afterwards confirmed by Congress. I have wrote to the Board of War for a Copy, which will

[24] Capt. Samuel Flower. He resigned on February 9, 1780, and was major of the Massachusetts Militia in 1782.

perhaps enable me to form a judgment of the equity of the complaints of the parties. Nothing but the clearest evidence of former mistakes should induce us to make any alteration in an arrangement which was compleated with so much trouble and so solemnly confirmed as that of Massachusetts. I am etc.[25]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 2, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have been favd. with yours of the 20th. ulto. respecting Capt. Cartwright.[26] I gave it as my opinion upon his personal application that he could not with propriety or expediency be again admitted into the regimental line, but that he might continue with the rank of an Aide de Camp appointed before the Resolve of Congress for the new arrangement of the Army. I am still of the same opinion, and that he is intitled to draw the pay and subsistence allowed to persons of that Rank from the time of his appointment. I am etc.[27] [MS. H. S.]

To JOHN BEATTY

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 2, 1780.

Sir: Capn. Wm. John Darby of the 17th Light Infantry[28] has requested of his Excellency the General, leave to go into New-York on parole, for the purpose of making certain arrangements in his company accounts &c. which were destroyed or lost at Stoney point. The General wishes you to communicate to him his permission for two months stay in New-York. He desires when you signify this, to direct him to Elizabeth Town

[25] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[26] Capt. Thomas Cartwright. He was aide to General Heath, and died in August, 1783.
[27] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[28] British Army.

where he is to give the parole usual on such occasions. The Capn. dates his letter at Mr. Ths. Franklins corner of Pine and 2d Streets.

A Major Meibom of the Brunswick troops prisoners at Lancaster has also solicited leave for one of his officers to go into New-York for 40 days, in order to procure pay for the corps. You will be pleased to let the Major know that his Excellency grants the permission to a subaltern officer. You will take the necessary steps as in the case of Capn. Darby. I am etc.[29]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 3, 1780.

Gentlemen: I have lately had several applications from the Subalterns of the Massachusetts line respecting mistakes which they say, happened in the arrangement settled at West point and confirmed by Congress and agreeable to which their Commissions were issued. As I have no Copy of that arrangement I am unable to determine upon the propriety of their complaints. I shall for that reason be obliged by a Copy so far as relates to the Subalterns only. I have a roll of the Field Officers and Captains. I have the honor, etc.[30]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Friday, March 3, 1780.

Parole Militia. Countersigns Music, Merit.

Commandants of divisions and brigades are desired to order Courts Marshal to sit as constantly as possible for the dispatch of business that there may be as few offenders in confinement as circumstances will admit.

[29] This letter is in the writing of and is signed "James McHenry."
[30] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

A man that can be well recommended for sobriety, integrity and industry is wanted to fill the Office of Provost Marshal to the Army.[31]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Saturday, March 4, 1780.

Parole Nation. Countersigns Nobility, Negro.

Regimental returns of cloathing called for the 29th ultimo are not all brought in, which occasions the delay to issue the shoes and other articles on hand. Commandts. of regiments who do not comply with the order by tomorrow at farthest will be made answerable for the neglect.

To JAMES LOVELL[32]

[Head Quarters, Morris town, March 4, 1780.]

Sir: I have been honored with your letter of the 23d of last month, and feel myself much indebted to you for the information it contains. Be assured [Sir] I am fully persuaded that no intelligence on your part will be withheld,[33] that may be considered as essential or assisting in the discharge of the duties of my station. I am happy to learn that the supplies for the Army from France are to be relied on. The accidents however that may befal them, should be a motive among others to induce the States not to relax in their particular exertions on the same account.

I think with you on the King of England's speech.[34] It has

[31] John Weiss had been provost marshal up to February, 1780.

[32] Massachusetts Delegate to the Continental Congress.

[33] Lovell had written to Washington (February 23): "The Correspondence with our Ministers at foreign Courts passing especially under my Eye and Fingers, I wish you to be persuaded that I will not omit giving you any information in my power." Lovell's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[34] The King's speech of November 23 to Parliament.

not so much of the arrogant and assuming, as has been usual; while what is said respecting the prosecution of the war could not have been less pointed, even were the intentions of his ministry pacific. No conclusion can be drawn with regard to expected Alliances. For even should he have them in view, yet there would seem a want of policy as you observe, in making the display, more especially if in the first instance, they are to appear as mediators.

I am particularly happy in the last paragraph of your communication. The Dutch I would hope will act wisely; and I flatter myself that in good time, we shall experience its benefits. With great regard etc.[35]

*To LORD STIRLING

Morris-town, March 5, 1780.

(Private)

My Lord: I have read the orders wch. you had framed for your division; they are certainly good, but in substance except in a very few insts. are very explicitly enjoined by the regulations; and have been reiterated at different periods in the general orders antecedent to the promulgation of the established "Regulations for the order and discipline of the Troops;" and since, in many particular ones, by a reference to them; as your Lordship may perceive by recurring to the orderly book.

At our last interview I slightly touched on this subject, but I shall embrace the present occasion to repeat more fully, that orders, unless they are followed by close attention to the performance of them, are of little avail. They are read by some, only heard of by others, and inaccurately attended to by all,

[35] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

whilst by a few, they are totally disregarded, and this will for ever be the case till the principal Officers of the Army begin the work of reformation by a close inspection into the police; the conduct of the Officers and men under their respective commands. and will endeavr. to restore public œconomy, and saving. than wch. nothing can bettr. suit our prest. Circums.

Example whether it be good or bad has a powerful influence, and the higher in Rank the Officer is who sets it, the more striking it is; hence, and from all military experience it has been found necessary, for Officers of every denomination to inspect narrowly the conduct of such parts of the Army and Corps as are committed to their care; without this the regulations "for the order and discipline of the Troops," established by the highest authority and wch. are short simple and easy in the performe. and the General orders will be little attended to; of course neglect of discipline, want of order, irregularity, waste, abuse, and embezzlement of public property, insensibly creep in it is idle to suppose under a descripn, like this the ground for wch none I believe will deny that a division, Brigade or Regimental Order, will have greater weight than those of Congress or the Genl; but if the Persons issuing them would devote, as duty indispensably requires, a reasonable portion of their time to a personal and close inspection into the affairs of their respective commands, would frequently parade their Regiments. and compare the actual strength of them, their Arms, Accoutrements and Cloaths, with the returns; and have the deficiencies (if any there be) satisfactorily accounted for and provided, agreeably to the establishment of the Army; would see that the regulations, the general orders and their own, were carried into execution where practicable, or report the causes of failure when they cannot. That all returns are made in due form, in proper time, and correctly; comparing

one return with another in order to prevent mistakes, correct abuses, and do justice to the public; and that in visiting such parts of the line, and such particular Corps as are entrusted to their care praize is bestowed on the deserving, reprehension, and (where necessary) punishment on the negligent, the good effect would be almost instantaneously felt; frequent visits and inspection into matters of this kind would produce more real good in one month than volumes of the best digested Orders that the wit of man can devise wd. accomplish in Seven years.

Were it not for the infinity of perplexing business that is refered to, and comes before me from every quarter; the multiplicity of Letters and papers I have to read and consider, many of which originate in the want of application and due attention being given by the Genl. Officers to their respective commands, which bring a variety of applications to head Qers. that ought to be settled in the respective lines I shd. devote much more of my time to the Military parts of my duty. unhappily while necessity with-holds me from these attentions [a want of being sufficiently impressed with its importance or some other cause][36] operates with equal force on others; and the few rides I am able to make to the Camp, and the hours wch. I can devote to the business of the line; never fail producing mortifying proofs of inattention and relaxation of discipline. The Country, in all my excursions I find spread over with Soldiers, notwithstanding the pointed orders which have been Issued to restrain them and to discountenance a practice wch. has been found pregnant of desertion, Robbery, and even murders, and as totally repugnant to every principle of discipline and the Rules laid down for our governmt.

This My Lord is a free and friendly representn. of facts. your letter drew it from *me* to *you* at this time; but I shall take

[36] The words in brackets were interpolated by Hamilton, after crossing off Washington's composition, which now cannot be deciphered.

occasion so soon as the Genl. Officers Assemble to require in explicit terms from them a conduct conformable to these sentimts. in future. for without it there is no possibility in the present perplexity of Affairs and the divided attention I am obliged to give to numberless objects wch press upon me to move the Military Machine with any degree of propriety without their assistance, with much esteem etc.

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, March 5, 1780.

Sir: I had the honor to receive by last nights Post Your Excellency's favor of the 10th Ulto. I am not certain I ever heard that Colo. Clarke had meditated an expedition against Detroit but I have thought it probable enough that he might turn his views that way. The reduction of this Post would be a matter very interesting from its situation and consequent importance to the tranquility of the Western Country. I have long wished to effect it, but hitherto unhappily our force and means at the Westward have not appeared sufficient to authorise an attempt. These are now from the expiration of the inlistments of many of the Men stationed at Fort Pitt, more incompetent than they were, and I have no prospect of directing an Enterprise to be undertaken. Your Excellency will hence be able to determine on the measures best for Colo. Clarke to pursue. I have thought the Icy season when the Enemys Ships and other armed Vessels are confined in the Harbour would be the most eligible time to attempt the Post if the preparations and Provisions necessary for such an operation could be then made as the Garrison would not only be precluded from a retreat but if it were happily to be reduced, it would also involve the loss of the Vessels an event of great moment. I have the honor etc.

P. S. If the expedition against Detroit is undertaken and I am advised of the time, it may possibly be in my power to favor it in some degree, by directing a movement of part of the Troops at Fort Pitt, by way of diversion.

I beg leave to inform Your Excellency, that besides the Men in the Regiments and Corps of which you have had Returns, There are 52 Non-Commission'd Officers and privates belonging to the State in the partisan Corps commanded by Major Lee.[37]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Monday, March 6, 1780.

Parole Newnham. Countersigns Gratton, Recorder.

Two men, one from the 1st. Pennsylvania brigade and one from the second, are to be sent to Mr. Gambles', the Commissary in Morristown, to assist in securing the hides and tallow.

Returns of Drums, Drum heads and cords, fifes and fife cases on hand and wanting in the several brigades, and of those in the hands of the Conductors and Commissary of Military Stores to be made to the Adjutant General as soon as possible.

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 6, 1780.

Gentlemen: I have been honored with yours of the 28th Ulto. It gives me great pleasure to find by your letter and by one which I recd. a few days ago from Mr. Lovell that we have favorable accounts from France on the subject of supplies of Cloathing and other stores. I have directed the Adj. General to call for an exact return of the drums and fifes wanting,

[37] The draft is in the writing of George Augustine Washington; the P. S. is in that of Robert Hanson Harrison.

which shall be transmitted to the Board as soon as they are brought in.

General Knox informs me that the Hessian swords which were at Albany were ordered down to Fishkill with an intention to deliver them out to the non Commd Officers of the Artillery and Infantry, but that on their arrival they were found stripped of their mountings which having been brass, had been taken off to cast into Gun Mountings and for other purposes. He says they may be remounted again with Iron, and that he will order part of them to be fitted up again. I have the honor, etc.[38]

To BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 6, 1780.

Dr Sir: On Saturday I received the Honor of your obliging favor of the 23d. Ulto. and was extremely sorry to find that your indisposition still continued; before this I hope you are perfectly recovered.

Returns of the Troops have been transmitted to all the States, except those of North and South Carolina and Georgia, which have no Troops in this Quarter and so particular as to enable them to form a tolerable good Judgment of the deficiency of Men they are to provide. I was more fortunate in obtaining them than, I at first apprehended.

The number of Men in the Field, would certainly be the proper criterion by which to determine the quantity of Arms necessary to have in reserve; but this depending on Levies it cannot be known with precision. I should hope however, with You, that the quantity you have mentioned and which I am happy to find in our Magazines will be fully competent to every contingent demand. Unless we experience some

[38] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

unlucky stroke of fortune, they certainly will. As to the large Muskets without Bayonets, they would without doubt answer much better in a Garrison than in the Field; however as there must be at present a large proportion of Supernumerary Arms at West point from the expiration of the Mens inlistments, who composed a part of the Garrison, I think it will be as well, at any rate at this time, to defer sending any of them there. Indeed I would never wish to have more Arms at any of the posts than may be really necessary, including a small reserve for fear of accidents; and besides these considerations, as the Troops of the Garrison are not always stationary, these Arms might not answer all the purposes you at first intended. With respect to the Artillery, there is a Gentleman now doing the duty of Inspector in that line; and most of the Independent Corps, forming a part of the Brigades, fall under the Common Inspections. The point as to the Cavalry is the most difficult, as they act in such a sparse, divided manner; but we must aim at the best system and regulations we can for their Government.

The system which was in contemplation in the fall, I have not with me, and being much occupied when I read it, I would choose to give the subject a little more consideration and another perusal.

The Establishment in May 1778 fixed the number of Men and Horses, of which a Regiment of Cavalry should consist; but from the service of the Men expiring and other causes, I believe there are none that have the complement of either. And from the immoderate price of Horses owing to the depreciation of the money, it is really difficult to know what is best to advise with respect to the filling them.

You must certainly have every assistance that may be requisite for prosecuting the important and interesting business of your department; and when You return we will endeavour

to provide for every deficiency and submit such additional arrangements as appear necessary, to the determination of Congress, who I am persuaded will adopt, with the greatest chearfulness, whatever may be thought essential.

It is so long since the annexing of the Mustering department to that of the Inspection was proposed, that You seem to have forgot it entirely. You will recollect on my mentioning the subject, that the matter was laid before a full Board of General Officers at West point, in consequence of a Letter I had received from a Committee of Congress; and that it was the unanimous opinion the Two Offices might be *united,* and that you found on consulting the Sub-Inspectors, the junction would be agreeable to them. It was in consequence of this information that I wrote to Congress the union of the Officers might be effected. They have since directed it to take place by a late Resolution, and me to arrange and report the plan. This I have hitherto deferred doing, from a desire of consulting you upon the occasion.

I am happy in the information about Cloathing &c. which you mention, and I sincerely hope they will arrive. It will be a fresh *manifestation* and in a very interesting point, of His Christian Majesty's affection towards us.

Count D'Estaing has experienced many vicissitudes of fortune. In this last affair She seemed at first to be much against him, in the separating him from his Squadron; but She appears in the conclusion to have made him amends in the capture of the Two Ships of War.[39] I feel great pleasure from the event, and I trust the Count has arrived safe with the prizes in port; and that he is perfectly recovered of all his wounds.

[39] Steuben's letter of February 23, in the *Washington Papers,* stated that the *Languedoc* ran aground on Cape Finisterre and was attacked by a British 74 and a frigate.

I thank You for your promise of communicating the time of the Minister's departure, and request you will present me to him with the most respectful attachment. I have the Honor, etc.[40]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENJAMIN FLOWER

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 6, 1780.

Sir: I have received yours of the 25th Feby. inclosing the Returns of part of the Regiment of Artillery Artificers. It is to be regretted that the original inlistments had not been clearly expressive of the term of service. Separate Rolls should have been kept, distinguishing those for three years from those for the War. To obviate the difficulties which were likely to arise from this vague kind of inlistment; Congress passed a Resolve that all Men who had been inlisted for the *War,* or for *three years* or *during the War* previous to the 23d. January 1779 should be intitled to a fresh Bounty of 100 dollars upon renewing their inlistments for the War. The greater part of the soldiers who had been under the beforementioned circumstances reinlisted upon these terms, and I think you had better try the same experiment upon such of your people as come under the above description, and inform me whether you have any success.[41]

The making such provision for your Corps as is made by the State for the troops of her line, is a matter which lays intirely with the Legislature and in which I cannot with propriety interfere. I am, etc.[42]

[40] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

[41] At this point the draft has the following crossed off: "This is a matter which should be determined as soon as possible, that we may know for what number of Men the state of Pennsylvania is to have credit; for, if those whose are returned for three years or during the War are to be discharged at the expiration of three years, it will occasion a deduction of upwards of 140 from the present return."

[42] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To ENSIGN WILLIAM SPENCER[43]

Head Quarters, March 6, 1780.

Sir: I have made your request for leave of absence known to His Excellency and have the pleasure to inform you, that you have his permission, to halt at home or in any part of Virginia, until the state of your wound will enable you to join, and do duty in your regt; when that is the case it is expected that you will immediately repair to the Southward and that you will in the meantime inform Genl Woodford or the commanding Officer of the Regt. the cause of your delay. With a sincere wish for your speedy recovery. I am, etc.[44]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

March 6, 1780.

[See Washington's letter of March 8, 1780.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Tuesday, March 7, 1780.

Parole Parliament. Countersigns Public, Physic.

All General and Staff officers of every denomination serving with the Army and all officers of Cavalry are to make, to the Quarter Master General as soon as possible, accurate returns of all public property belonging to his department, particularly Marques, Horseman's and common tents and of all public horses not in the dragoon and waggon service. All officers east of the river Potowmack are to pay strict obedience to this order.

[43] Of the Eighth Virginia Regiment. He was made lieutenant in September, 1780, and captain in 1781.

[44] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "R. K. M[eade], A. D. C."

At the request of Captain Van Dyck,[45] a Court of Enquiry is to sit tomorrow at Col. Spencer's quarters, who is appointed President of the same, to enquire into the conduct of Captn. VanDyck respecting the death of a Negro man, soldier in Capt. Bernard's[46] Company, Col. Wylly's regiment, who was killed on the night of the 14th. day of January last; Each of the Pennsylvania and Maryland brigades will furnish a Captain who are to sit as members.

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 7, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I have successively received your several favors of the 17th February; two of the 28th; and two dated the 4th. instant.

From the representation of the Court of Enquiry in your letter of the 28th, and till a favorable change in its objects, I am induced to authorise you to direct Colonel Hay D. Q. M. G. to augment the number of express riders to the exigencies of the day. He is to make me forthwith a return of the number he may find requisite to call into service on this occasion; and injoined the strictest œconomy, not only as it is the pleasure of Congress, but because it is absolutely necessary in our affairs.

Inclosed you will find observations on some of the questions transmitted in yours of the 4th. You will be pleased to fill up what I have left open, in such a manner, as will answer our purposes and at the same time suit the character which the writer bears with the enemy.

[45] Capt. Abraham C.(?) Van Dyke.
[46] Capt. John Bernard, of the Third Connecticut Regiment.

You have herewith the account of expenses incurred by Ens: Sloan[47] returned; on which you may order payment deducting only the officers subsistence as noted on the back of the account. I am &c.

In answer to Beekwith's[48] letter to —— you will magnify the present force on the North river, but keep it within the bounds of what may be thought reasonable or probable.

As to the *water force* up the river, and in the harbours of Connecticut &c. I can say nothing to the question. You must use your own judgment in the answer as well as others.

With respect to the recruiting of the army for the ensuing campaign you may give the true requisitions of Congress on this subject; adding that the states as far as we have heard mean to go into the measure spiritedly, and to fill up their respective batalions by drafts.

That the Quotas of the several States be as follows.

New Hampshire	1215	
Massachusetts Bay	6070	
Rhode Island	810	
Connecticut	3238	
New York	1620	
New Jersey	1620	
Pennsylvania	4855	
Delaware	405	
Maryland	3238	
Virginia	6070	
North Carolina	3640	
South Carolina	3430.	Exclusive of blacks.

W——n's intentions are not known. He appears to be preparing both for offensive and defensive operations on the North

[47] Ensign Sturgin Sloan, of the Second Massachusetts Regiment. He was appointed a lieutenant in August, 1781; transferred to the Third Massachusetts Regiment in June, 1783; served to November, 1783.

[48] One of Howe's spies.

river. His preparations for the campaign are however on a general scale and seem calculated for decisive action or as circumstances and openings may point.

His magazines from motives of policy are not large as to the quantity Stored in one place. This he supposes prevents their becoming an object with the enemy, and prevents too great a draught on the army for guards. And this I believe to be the true reason for his having them so much dispersed in the Country.

Expectations of supplies from France, are not only well founded and ample, but morally certain.

It is whispered that a French fleet is expected. This however is very cautiously spoken of.

The confidence in the money is increasing very fast. This appears to have been brought about by several causes. Every body having bartered part of his property for the money, find it their interests to see it supported. The current expenses of the present year is to be provided for by heavy taxes which the people are very well disposed to bear, by the sale of bills on Europe, which I am told will bring into the treasury about forty million of dollars, and by loans which the moneyed men appear to enter into with much spirit. And in aid to this, the respective States are to furnish specific articles for the support of the army. Congress have determined against any further emissions.

The militia are well organized and in consequence of established signals can be assembled at a minutes warning.

The cavalry I am well informed will be recruited and brought on the lines.

The troops on the lines General Howe will speak to himself.[49] [*sic*]

[49] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR AND LIEUTENANT COLONELS EDWARD CARRINGTON AND ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 7, 1780.

Whereas a proposition hath been made and acceded to for a meeting of Commissioners at Amboy on Thursday the 9th: instant for the purpose of settling a General Cartel.

In order to carry the said proposition into effect and to make the most liberal permanent and extensive provision for the exchange and accommodation of prisoners of War.

You Major General St. Clair and Lieutenant Colonels Carrington and Hamilton in virtue of full powers to me given by The Honorable the Congress of the United States are hereby appointed and authorised to meet such Commissioners of suitable Rank as shall come duly authorised on the part of His Excellency Sir Henry Clinton or His Excellency Lieutenant General Knyphausen in virtue of powers from His Britannic Majesty at the time and place above mentioned and at any time and place afterwards to which it may be thought proper to adjourn, with them to treat, confer, determine and conclude upon a General Cartel for the exchange and accommodation of prisoners of War including the Troops of the Convention of Saratoga and all matters whatsoever which may be properly contained therein on principles of justice, humanity and mutual advantage and agreeable to the custom and practice of War among civilized Nations.

For all which this shall be your Warrant and your engagements being interchanged shall be ratified and confirmed by me.[50]

[50] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To JOHN CLEVES SYMMES

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 7, 1780.

Sir: I have been honoured with your Favor of the 6th. Instant. The part the Grand Jury of this County are desirous of taking, in the matter that makes the subject of Your Letter, does great credit to their justice and their zeal. At the same time, it appears to me, that it may be best not to issue the Order they request,[51] as it might produce many trivial complaints by the Soldiery, and have a tendency to excite in them, however guarded and descriptive the Order might be of the persons the Objects of the Jury's request, a less respectful regard for the Inhabitants and their property, than I wish them to possess. In this view I have declined issuing It. If however there are any particular persons, who the Jury have good grounds to believe were guilty of immoderate exactions from the Soldiery in their late distress, and they think proper to communicate their names, I will direct measures to be taken to obtain the Witnesses to the facts, if they belong to the Army. I have the Honor, etc.[52]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 8, 1780.

Gentlemen: Inclosed you have Returns of Arms and Accoutrements wanting by the 2d. and 4th: Regiments of Light Dragoons. The Articles of sadlery could, I believe, have been

[51] The grand jury of Morris County had been informed that some of the inhabitants had practiced extortion on the soldiers in the matter of prices charged for provisions. It requested Washington "to direct (in General orders) that those of the Soldiers who have been thus shamefully and unreasonably treated, or can give information on the subject, do make their complaints in form before the Grand Jury, or some Magistrate of the County that those extortioners may be proceeded against according to law, or pointed out by the public as Unconscionable men."—*Symmes to Washington,* Mar. 6, 1780. Symmes's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[52] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

procured in Connecticut, but the Dy. Qr. Mr. General there did not think himself at liberty to proceed in the Business, without a special order, and therefore transmitted the Returns to the Quarter Master General for his direction, who, being also at a loss in the matter, put them into my hands. The Board may perhaps have been already taking measures for the equipment of the Cavalry for the next Campaign, and I therefore thought it best to consult them before I gave any order in the matter. Should the Board not have made provision of the Articles called for, I imagine Mr. Hubbard, the Dy. Qr. Mr. Gl. at Hartford, can as readily and more conveniently than any other supply the Sadlery. The Commy. General of military Stores will I suppose have directions to supply such Articles as fall within his department. There are pistols in the Magazine, but the Horsemens swords must be made, as there are none proper for the purpose on hand, that I know of. You will be pleased to take into consideration the advanced state of the season, which calls for an early determination upon the premisses.

From a letter which I recd. from Major Tallmadge, at present commanding Officer of the 2d. Regt. of Dragoons, dated 20th. Feby. I am fearful that no orders have yet been issued for providing Cloathing for that Regt. The following is an extract from the Major's letter "We have recd. a letter from the Board of War informing that they have requested your Excellency to furnish Colo. Sheldon with an order on Messrs. Otis and Henly in Boston for the Cloathing necessary for his Regt." I have never received any such directions from the Board, on the contrary, if they will refer to my letter of the 15th: January in answer to one of the 21st. Decemr. by Capt. Edgar on the subject of Cloathing for that Regt. I advised the Board to give Otis and Henly orders to make up Cloathing for a full Regt: as the overplus if any, might be applied by the Cloathier to the other Corps

of Horse. Having heard nothing since, I concluded the order had been given.

Should there have been any misapprehension the Board will perceive the necessity of giving an immediate order to have the Cloaths procured, the approach of the season for operation not only demands it, but the whole Regt. is returned unfit for duty for want of Cloaths. I have the honor, etc.[53]

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR AND LIEUTENANT COLONELS EDWARD CARRINGTON AND ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 8, 1780.

Gentlemen: The powers herewith, authorise you to proceed to Amboy on Thursday the 9th. instant to meet Commissioners on the part of the enemy for the purpose of settling a General Cartel. You will perceive what has been already done in this business by the papers accompanying this. The proposals concerted between Major General Phillips and Colonels Magaw, Mathews, Ely and Lt Col Ramsay No. 1; the resolution of Congress of the 13th. and 26 of Jany and the letter from the President of the 27th. No. 2; the resolution of Congress transmitted in a letter from the Board of Treasury of the 14th. Jany. No. 3; my letter to Colonels Mathews, Ely and Lt Col Ramsay of the 1st of Feby. No. 4; Lt General Knyphussens letter of the 19th. No. 5; mine in answer of the 29th. No. 6; and his in answer to that, of the 4th. instant. No. 7.[54]

[53] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[54] A copy of no. 1, Jan. 4, 1780, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 152, vol. 8, fol. 291. Attested copies of no. 2 are in the *Washington Papers*. An attested copy of no. 3, Jan. 13, 1780; the draft of no. 4; the original of no. 5; the draft of no. 6; and the original of no. 7, are in the *Washington Papers*.

The only instructions I have to give you are these, that you transact nothing under your commission, but upon principles of perfect equality and on a national ground. If the enemy will not treat with you on this footing you will put an end to the Negotiation. But after your official business is over, I wish you in private conversation, to enter into a discussion of the proposals so as to remove any difficulties they contain and prepare the way for some future particular agreement, which may give relief to our officers and men in captivity.

If you enter into a general Cartel you must of necessity include the Southern prisoners; but if you are obliged to confine yourself to what I now recommend, you will avoid including them. The proposals appear to me generally liberal, though in some respects exceptionable. The tariff however is moderate enough. Having entire confidence in your judgment and discretion, I think it unnecessary to enter into a detail of the exceptionable parts; persuaded they will readily occur to you and that you will take proper steps to have them amended.

The settlement of accounts is a point of importance and difficulty. As the matter now stands I am unable to give you any explicit directions on the subject. If you are like to enter into a general Cartel, you will immediately advise me and I will obtain further instructions from Congress. If this is not the case, you will hardly be able to draw any engagements from the enemy on this head, and you will perceive this point is not to be made a preliminary nor ultimatum. You will do the best you can, endeavouring by all means, to engage the British Commissioners to advance a sufficient sum of money to pay the debts of our officers for Board and the like and enable them to leave their captivity.

You will communicate to me from time to time, any matters you may desire my advise upon and it shall cheerfully be

afforded. I sincerely wish you a successful and honorable issue to your Commission.[55]

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 8, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I have received your letter of the 6th of this month, covering a copy of one of the 16th of February to Congress, on the subject of your department.

That your representation may want no efficacy which it can receive on my part, I shall take the first opportunity to transmit the Congress your letter to me which accompanied it; As also that of Colonel Biddle's to you of the 24th. and what has been done in consequence. The embarrassments and evils you have stated, as crouding and accumulating in your department, are truly alarming: but how far the condition of our finances may put it in the power of Congress to remove or lessen them, I cannot pretend to say. Heretofore you have uniformly and successfully used your abilities and exertions to forward the service; and I have no doubt, that under the most critical circumstances these will continue to be employed. I am &c.[56]

To COLONEL GOOSE VAN SCHAICK

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 8, 1780.

Sir: I have been favd. with yours of the 15th. and 26th. ulto. The first inclosing the proceedings of a Court Martial agt. Capt. Lieut. Young,[57] the last a return of your Regiment.

I find myself under the necessity of disapproving the Sentence agt. Capt. Lt. Young, on account of the irregular

[55] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

[56] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

[57] Capt.-Lieut. Guy Young, of the First New York Regiment. His rank of captain was dated from July, 1779; retired in January, 1781; served subsequently as captain of New York levies.

constitution of the Court. The power of ordering Genl. Courts Martial is only vested in the Commander in Chief or a General Officer commanding in any State; And if I am not mistaken, Major Graham[58] the president of the Court was at the same time commanding Officer of the Garrison which is contrary to one of the Articles of War. Indeed, from the whole face of the proceedings, I am of opinion that this matter had better be accommodated than brought before another Court, as the arrest was principally founded on transactions which happened in liquor and which ought never to have been brought before the public. The charge of neglect of duty does not seem to be at all supported. But as you must from your situation be more fully acquainted with circumstances than I am, I will grant an order for holding a General Court Martial if you think the service requires it.

I shall, as soon as the season and circumstances will admit, relieve your Regiment from their present duty. I return the proceedings of the Court. I am &c.[59]

To COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 8, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favs. of the 23d. and 24th. Feby. with the several inclosures to which they refer. I am exceedingly concerned to see by the letters which have passed between Governor Trumbull and you, and by the Returns, the ill condition of the 2nd. and 4th: Regiments of Cavalry in respect to Cloathing, Arms and Accoutrements. I understood that application had been made for the former directly to the Board of War, and I was in hopes that it had been provided. I shall be glad to know what prospect your Regiment has of being

[58] Maj. John Graham, of the First New York Regiment. He served to the close of the war.

[59] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

supplied and have wrote to Major Tallmadge on the same subject respecting Sheldons. Genl. Greene yesterday laid before me a Return of Arms and Accoutrements wanting in both Regiments. This Return had been delivered to Mr. Hubbard the Dy. Qr. Mr. Genl. in Connecticut, but he not knowing whether he was authorised to procure the several Articles, transmitted the estimate to the Qr. Mr. Genl. who put it into my hands. I have some reason to believe that the Board of War have been making provisions for the Cavalry, I have therefore forwarded the Return to them, and shall take their order for the method of procuring what they cannot supply.

A Court Martial is to be held on the 15th. April next at Springfield for the trial of Mr. Tychnor[60] Dy. Commy. of purchases at Coos, on sundry Charges brought agt. him by Colo. Hazen. I have directed the Commanding Officer at Danbury to furnish a Field Officer for president and six Captains and Subs. Six Captains and Subs are to be furnished from the two Regiments of Cavalry. You will therefore be pleased to order that number upon that duty, and direct them to be punctual in their attendance at the time.

Doctor Shippen has summoned you as a Witness upon his trial which is to be held at this place upon the 14th: Inst. After leaving proper directions with the next Officer in command you will repair hither. I am &c.[61]

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 8, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favs. of the 20th: and 26th. Feby. Inclosed you will find an acceptance of Capt. Shethars[62]

[60] Isaac Tichnor (Tychnor).

[61] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[62] Capt. John Shethar, of the Second Continental Dragoons. His resignation is dated Mar. 8, 1780.

Resignation, which ought of right to have been endorsed upon his Commission. I shall be glad to be informed whether the interposition of the Civil Authority, in regard to granting and extending furloughs is confined to the State of Jersey, because I would take occasion to mention the matter to the Governors of the States where such proceedings have happened. I forwarded Mr. Campbells[63] letter to him.

I have never received any directions from the Board of War to call upon Otis and Henley for a supply of Cloathing for the 2d. Regt. of Cavalry; on the contrary, I wrote to the Board on the 15th. January last in consequence of Captain Edgars application and advised them to give orders to Otis and Henley to have Cloathing made up for a full Regiment; telling them at the same time, that if the Regt. should not be recruited to its complement, the overplus Cloathing might be kept or delivered to some other Corps; having heard nothing since, I concluded the matter had been done; But I shall upon your letter, write immediately to the Board, that if there has been any misapprehension, they may take occasion to give their orders without delay.[64]

C—— Seniors letter of the 27th. Feby. transmitted to me by Lt: Brewster came safely to hand. I am &c.[65]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 6[–8], 1780.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's Letters of the 21st and 22d Ulto. I thank you for the communication you have been pleased to give me, with respect to the Fleet

[63] Mr. Campbell was a justice of the peace at Springfield, N. J., who had extended the furloughs of several of Tallmadge's men.

[64] At this point the draft has the following crossed off: "I am much concerned to find by Colo. Moylans report the ill condition of the Regimt. for want of Cloathing."

[65] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

and embarkation at the Havannah, and I am in hopes we shall hear of the Spaniards having made a successful stroke against one or both of the places you have mentioned. As to the Enemy's Fleet supposed to bound to the Southward, from the violent and constant storms that prevailed for several days after their departure from New York, I still think they must have been a good deal deranged and injured.

With respect to Capt. Greene[66] and the other Hostages given at the Cedars. It cannot be in my power to do more than to endeavour to effect their exchange. This will be attempted as it constantly has been; but it will rest with the Enemy to consent to it or not, as they may think proper. Hitherto the latter has been their choice, and if they persevere in it, the Hostages I should suppose must be bound by their engagements. It seems to me that this must be the case in every instance of Parole, and in the present the engagements appear to be obligatory upon the officers in a very peculiar manner, as the indulgence of Parole was granted, after the Treaty was set aside, for the performance of which they had been given as a security.

I find myself under the necessity of transmitting to Your Excellency the Copy of a letter I received Yesterday from the Quarter Master General, pointing out afresh the distresses of his department. As Your Excellency I presume, has received the original letter of the 16th Ulto. to which he alludes,[67] I have not inclosed a copy of it. I do not know what can or will be done to give relief; but from all I hear and all I see, things really appear to me in this department to be in a very alarming train, and to threaten the most interesting and fatal consequences. The inclosure No 2 (a Copy of a letter of the 24th

[66] Capt. Ebenezer Green (Greene), of Bedel's New Hampshire Rangers. He was a prisoner on parole to February, 1782.

[67] In the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 155, vol. 1, fol. 208. An autograph signed copy is in the *Washington Papers*.

Ulto. from Colo Biddle to the Quarter Master Genl.) will shew too how we are, and are like to be distressed on account of forage. In consequence of this representation, I prevailed on Colo Biddle as the most eligible plan that occur'd to me, to wait on the Assembly at Trenton and to lay our difficulties and apprehensions on this head before them but what they will or can do I cannot determine. I am very apprehensive that we shall experience great difficulties for want of proper supplies.

March 8th.

Your Excellency's dispatches of the 29th of Feby. have been duly received. General Irvine at present, is at home on Furlough, which circumstance of itself would prevent an immediate attention being paid to his claim of rank; but if this was not the case, it appears to me for reasons I shall take the liberty to state on a future occasion, that it will be impossible for me to settle it, and that Congress themselves will be only competent to it.

It is very sincerely to be wished that the States may furnish the several articles of supplies required of them. It will be very interesting for them to do it, and in such a manner that the Army may not either be reduced to a situation of want, or our operations be cramped or prohibited by an apprehension of it. I shall take the earliest occasion, after it is in my power, to inform the respective States of the places that appear to me the most proper for the supplies to be deposited at. It will be necessary to consult the Quartr. Master Genl and Commissary Genl. upon the subject, the latter of whom is now absent from Camp on business at the Eastward. I have the honor, etc.[68]

[68] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade. The letter was read in Congress on March 16 and referred to the Board of Treasury. "Postponed for Estimates T[homas]. B[urke]: 16 Septemr. 1780, to be returned to the Secrety. Office." Ford prints this letter under date of March 6, and Sparks under March 7.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Wednesday, March 8, 1780.

Parole Price. Countersigns Civil, Liberty.

From the great scarcity of forage and difficulty of obtaining the necessary supplies, the General calls for a strict attention to the order of the 8th. day of December last for sending away from Camp as many horses as possible.

When hay cannot be issued and the supplies of grain will admit of it, eight quarts of grain are to be issued daily for each horse and when hay is issued, four quarts.

All officers drawing forage from the Magazine or Brigade Forage Masters are to make returns of the number of horses which they actually have in camp and draw for them only; and the Commissary General of Forage is to pay the utmost attention to having the forage distributed to the riding and waggon horses with the utmost equality during the present scarcity.

All the great roads leading thro' camp are to be cleared and repaired immediately by the brigades thro' or near which they pass; and care is to be taken to have free communications opened from one brigade to another thro'out both lines of the army.

The hot season approaching, all possible attention is to be paid to cleanliness in the interior and environs of camp; Sinks are to be dug without delay. Every fair day the windows and doors of all the huts should be kept open the greatest part of the day, and the beding straw and bunks frequently aired.

All officers on parade duty are to pay a strict attention to the performance of the honors due to the General and Field officers agreeable to the established regulations.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Thursday, March 9, 1780.

Parole Reflexion. Countersigns Reason, Reserve.

Commands of Brigades frequently devolving on junior, while senior Field officers are in camp, the Adjutant General is directed to vary from the order of the 31st. of January and instead of Commandants of Brigades, appoint as many senior field officers to do the duty of Brigadiers of the day as will make the tour once in eight days.

AFTER ORDERS

Thomas O'Bryne of Col. Crane's Corps of Artillery is appointed Provost Marshal to the army 'till further orders.

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 9, 1780.

Dear Sir: I recd. your favr. of yesterday requesting some general or particular orders for the necessary provision in the Quarter Master's department for the ensuing Campaign. Under present circumstances, any directions, which I can give, must be of the former kind, and after furnishing you with the number of Men which Congress have thought fit to require for the current year, I must leave it to your judgment to determine what will be necessary to equip them, so far as they depend upon you. Inclosed you will find the quota of troops required from each State, which is to include those already in the field, whether of Artillery, Horse, additional Regiments, or the troops of particular States. And though they may not perhaps be all levied, yet, in forming estimates, we ought to make the full number the Rule of calculation. We are at present to suppose

that all those demanded of Virginia, North and South Carolina and Georgia will act to the Southward and are to be provided for separately. The enemy may transfer the War more generally to the southward, but as that is a matter of great uncertainty, I do not know that we are authorised to make a greater provision in that quarter, than for the number of Men that seem just now designated for that service.

The position and operation of the remainder will depend so much upon future circumstances, that I can give you no other directions at present than to be making the best preparations in your power of Camp equipage, Carriages &c. for the number of Men destined for the main Army which will be composed of the troops from Maryland to New-Hampshire inclusively. The position of this Body, should the Enemy remain in considerable force at New York, we may reasonably suppose will be much the same that it was the last Campaign, and as that, under present appearances, is most probable, I think you may be drawing the Stores of your department to this quarter and towards the North River as soon as the state of the Roads and the forwardness of your preparations will admit; giving me notice before you make any considerable collection. Should our Allies determine upon a joint operation by sea and land against New York they must necessarily give us previous notice and in that case we must change our plan from the defensive to the offensive. I do not know that we can now take any measures towards the latter event, more than giving orders to have all the Craft upon the North River and in the sound overhawled and put in repair as soon as the Weather will admit of such Work. From the foregoing, and from your own intimate knowledge of the situation of our affairs, you will perceive that I cannot give you more particular directions for your conduct. I sincerely wish that your embarrassments were fewer, but I am convinced that

you will exert yourself to the utmost. Should any intelligence come to my knowledge, which will enable me to give you more particular or perfect information, you may be assured that I shall immediately communicate them to you. I am &c.[69]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 9, 1780.

Dr Sir: The General officers at this time absent from the army, and those who claim the indulgence of a furlough are [is distressing to me and injurious to the service and] makes me hope that the state of your health is so far altered for the better, as to admit of your rejoining the army, in this quarter. I would wish you to be here as soon as possible, but if circumstances do not correspond with your immediate attendance in this case, by the beginning of the next month at farthest. If however your health is not in a condition to put this in practice you will be pleased to take occasion to inform me. I am etc.[70]

To COLONEL JOSEPH CILLEY[71] OR OFFICER COMMANDING GENERAL POOR'S BRIGADE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 9, 1780.

Sir: A General Court Martial is to be held at Springfield on the 15th: April next for the trial of Mr. Isaac Tichenor Dy. Commy. of purchases at Coos on sundry Charges exhibited against him by Colonel Hazen, and for the trial of Jacob Bailey Esqr. Dy. Qr. master Genl. at Coos on a charge of neglect

[69] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. At the end of the draft Richard Kidder Meade has appended the quota of men each State is to furnish, which is the same as that in Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. Robert Howe, Mar. 7, 1780, *q. v.*

[70] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry. The words in brackets were interlined by Washington, but McHenry has scratched out the "is" and written "are" over it.

[71] Of the First New Hampshire Regiment. He retired in January, 1781.

of duty exhibited against him by Mr. Tichnor. After going through the before mentioned trials, part of the Members of the same Court are to form a Court of enquiry into the Issues of the provisions made by Mr. Matthew Lynes Dy. Commy. of Issues at Coos, during the fall and Winter of 1778 and previous to Colonel Hazen's arrival in 1779. You are to appoint a Field Officer as president of the Court and six Captains and Subs from the Brigade under your command. The remaining six are to be furnished from the 2d. and 4th: Regs. of Dragoons. Inclosed you will find powers for holding the Court Martial and Court of enquiry and Copies of the charges agt. Mr. Tichenor and Bailey which you will be pleased to deliver to the Gentleman who may be appointed president. You have also inclosed a survey held upon the provision at Coos, which may serve to throw some light upon the matters which may be brought before the Court. The parties are furnished with the Charges and summoned to attend with the Witnesses and Vouchers. You will desire the Officers from your Brigade to be punctual in their attendance at the time.

The proceedings of the Court Martial and the Result of the Court of Enquiry are to be transmitted to me. I am &c.[72]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JACOB BAYLEY[73]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 9, 1780.

Sir: The severity of the Season having prevented the persons concerned from attending the Court Martial which was appointed to be held at this place the 20th. January last, I have, for the conveniency of the parties ordered a Court to sit the 15th: April next at Springfield. You being charged by Mr.

[72] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[73] Brig. Gen. Jacob Bayley (Bailey), of the New Hampshire Militia, and deputy quartermaster general at Coos.

Isaac Tichenor Dy. Commy. of purchases "With suffering a quantity of Beef at Coos to take damage through your inattention and neglect and contrary to your engagements and duty." You are desired to attend at the time and place before mentioned prepared to answer the said charge. I am etc.[74]

To JUAN DE MIRALLES

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 9, 1780.

Sir: I have received a report from New York, that one of the transports which sailed from this place with the armament on the 26th of Decembr. Ulto. after a succession of severe weather, and on being seperated from the fleet, had opened her orders which it is said directed her to rendezvous at Tybee;[75] but finding this either impracticable or two hazardous she returned to New York.

I would observe to you on this report, that it does not come with sufficient authenticity to give it any certain determination. My desire, however to send you every thing that may have a tendency to throw light on the designs or destination of the fleet, is my reason for the present communication. I wish to have it in my power to advise you of something more interesting. With great regard, etc.[76]

To JAMES GRAY

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 9, 1780.

Sir: A Court Martial and Court of Enquiry is to be held at Springfield on the 15th: April next for investigating the complaints against the Dy. Qr. Master and Dy. Commissaries of purchases and Issues at Coos. You are desired to give notice to

[74] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[75] Entrance of the Savannah River, Georgia.
[76] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

Mr. Lynes to attend, prepared to account for the quantity of provisions issued by him during the Fall and Winter of 1778 and previous to Colo. Hazens arrival at Coos in 1779 specifying to whom and by whose orders the provisions were issued. I am etc.[77]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, March 10, 1780.

Sir: "Since I had the Honor of writing to Your Excellency on the 26th Ulto. I have obtained Returns of Moylan's and Sheldon's Regiments of Light Dragoons, in which I find there are some Men belonging to the state of New Jersey. I inclose a particular Return of them, specifying the Terms of their engagements."

I have the Honor, etc.

Moylans 21. Sheldons 11 = 32

[P. S.] I have had the Honor of Your Excellency's Obliging Favor of the 26th of Feby. and am indebted for the very polite and friendly manner in which You have been pleased to express Yourself on the subject of my Letter of the 19th.

Your Excellency's observations with respect to the Enemys affairs in Europe, appear to be well warranted by the public prints that have been received; but I hope nevertheless as You do, that the States will not relax in any necessary and prudent preparation. We may be certain from what has happened, that the Enemy will never give over prosecuting their claim till compelled by the last necessity. I congratulate You on the proceedings in Ireland which seem well calculated to hasten this.[78]

[77] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[78] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The same letter, with necessary changes in text to fit and minus the postscript, was sent to President Joseph Reed, of Pennsylvania, and Jeremiah Powell, president of the Massachusetts Council.

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Head Quarters, March 10, 1780.

Sir: Since I had the Honor of writing to Your Excellency on the 20th Ulto. I have obtained Returns of some Corps, which I had not then. I find there are in Moylan's Regiment of Light Dragoons a few Men belonging to the State of Maryland, of which I inclose You a particular Return, specifying the terms for which they stand engaged.

I have received within a few days past the Honor of Your Excellency's Letter of the 3d of last month. In consequence, I have informed General Gist[79] that a Flag shall be furnished to convey Your passport to New York, respecting Mrs Chamier's furniture &c, and I very much wish that She may receive them safe. Her peculiar circumstances and the generosity of Mr Chamier in his life time to our prisoners, as has been frequently mentioned, seem to have given Mrs Chamier a good claim to the indulgence the Council have granted. I have the Honor, etc.[80] [MD. H. S.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Friday, March 10, 1780.

Parole Substantial. Countersigns Solidity, Sense.

The Main Guard will be relieved tomorrow by Detail from the Line.

The returns called for by the order of the 6th. instant are to include all continental property received from the Quarter Master General's department, not specified in the returns made by the Brigade Quarter Masters.

[79] Brig. Gen. Mordecai Gist.
[80] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

As a multiplicity of business in the Adjutant General's office renders it extremely difficult for him to attend at the Orderly Office every day, the acting brigade Major of the day therefore after the duty of the grand parade is over, will attend at the Adjutant General's Office in Morristown to take the general orders which he is to communicate at the place appointed to the other Brigade Majors and officers intitled to receive them; This duty to be performed daily 'till further orders, except on Saturday when the Adjutant General will attend in person.

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 10[–11], 1780.

Dear Sir: I yesterday recd. yours of the 7th. I fancy your information of the enemy's having been at Sufferans was without foundation; at least I have heard nothing of it, and I think such an occurrence could not have escaped the Officer who commands the party at Paramus.

I take it for granted that General Heath has furnished you with a Copy of the instructions which I left with him when I removed from West point; the following are extracts from my orders to Genl. Poor or commanding Officer at Danbury

The object of your going there (Danbury) is to afford the best cover to the part of the Country Eastward of Norwalk on the sound, as the troops at West point will attend more immediately to the Enemy's lines and the protection of the people in that quarter of the state of NYork. As there is no telling the designs or knowing the objects of the enemy you will endeavor to give opposition to them and afford every assistance in your power to the State you will be in, in case any part of it is *invaded,* and will in an especial manner in case of such an event attend to the case of our Stores at Litchfield and Springfield. In every other respect you will consider yourself under the orders and directions of

Maj. Genl. Heath or Officer commanding at West point if your superior in Rank.

You will perceive from the foregoing and from my instructions to General Heath that my Ideas only extended in general to throwing a Chain of light parties from the North River to the sound. In case of an actual and serious invasion of the State of Connecticut General Poor was to give every assistance in his power, but it never was intended to move any Body of troops down to the Coast upon such occasions or upon such surmises as those mentioned by Colo. Mead.[81] Indeed were we to attend to every small operation upon the sound the enemy might take an opportunity, by making a feint there, to operate to effect upon the Highland posts.

General Heath, in a letter of the 27th. January, proposed ordering one hundred Men from General Poors Brigade to take post at Harrison's purchase, but I objected to making a stationary post so low down, and advised, instead of that, a patrol of one hundred, who should move down occasionally.

I have given no other Instructions to General Heath particularly relative to his command at the Highlands.

I am exceedingly pleased at your attention to the Works at West point, which I wish may be pushed forward as far as the Weather and your numbers will admit.

11th. I am this moment favd. with yours of the 8th. I cannot but approve every attempt to reform the discipline of the Army which I am sorry to say is too little attended to in general. I shall deliver Ensign Vincents[82] parole to the Commy. General of prisoners. I am etc.[83]

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[81] Col. John Mead, of the Connecticut Militia. He was brigadier general of the Connecticut Militia in 1781 to the close of the war. A copy of his letter to Howe (March 2) is in the *Washington Papers*.

[82] Ensign Elijah Vincent, of The Guides and Pioneers, loyalist troops.

[83] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Saturday, March 11, 1780.

Parole Trade. Countersigns Leinster, Bedford.

Hand's and Maxwell's brigades will relieve the fatigue party at the Baskin-Ridge Hospital tomorrow.

Stark's brigade will furnish a serjeant two Corporals and twenty men as a fatigue party to be sent tomorrow to Mr. William Beard's saw mill, near Baskin-Ridge to assist in repairing the same, for the use of the Army.

The Main Guard and Morristown Picket are to be relieved by detail every other day 'till further orders.

The brigadiers and officers commanding brigades are desired to attend at Head Quarters punctually at 11 o'clock next Monday morning.

*To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 11, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I have received Intelligence and from a person who thinks himself well informed, that the enemy have it in contemplation to pay us a visit (and in a very short time) at this Post. At the same time that I discredit the report (at least with respect to time), I do not despise the information especially as *our* circumstances, and some appearances with *them* are not opposed to the measure.

The effect I wish this communication to have upon you, is, to be as well informed as possible of every movement within the enemy's lines; particularly with respect to the Assembling of Troops and Horses, and the reparation of Boats and Carriages, an Acct. of which you will immediately transmit to me, and

prepare with Poors Brigade and such troops as can be spared from the Point to make a forward movemt. towards Kings bridge either to take the enemy in reverse, or keep them in check.

Their movement in *force only* is to govern yours and sufficient attention is to be paid to your Works. You will readily perceive that the design of this manœuvre is to induce the enemy to look back to their rear if the Camp near Morris should be their object. In haste for I did not know of the present conveyance five minutes ago. I am etc.

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 11, 1780.

Dr. Sir: Since my private letter of this morning Baron De Kalb who is on the lines, informs me, that "the enemy have taken up a large number of vessels (it seems for an expedition against this quarter). All the houses on the western and northern sides of Staten Island are taken for barracking troops. That on the 8th. inst. a number of horsemen arrived on said Island together with some artillery men, and a large number of troops were to arrive there the 9th."

As this is confirmative of the information transmitted you in my private letter, in addition to what I have there advised, in case of the enemy moving against this quarter, I would recommend the calling in such a force of Militia as you may judge adequate to the object of your move, and that they bring with them at least 10 or 12 days provisions. Without this precaution it would be impossible to feed them from our own stock. But this measure should not be adopted till you are convinced from your own intelligence, or mine, that the designs of the enemy are directed against Morris. The information should not be equivocal, but decisive. For to call in the Militia without a

certainty in this matter would be to multiply our embarrassments without any adequate end.

I would observe however on this subject, that altho all the intelligence is pointed at this army, and notwithstanding the circumstance of fixing on the houses on the western and northern sides of Staten Island would corroborate the idea yet it may happen that while the enemy look one way their intentions may be to operate another. But whether the posts at the highlands, or this army, be the object your precautions and measures will necessarily place you in a situation calculated to make a diversion as proposed, in our favor, or a resistance competent to your own security till you can be succored by the collective force of the Country or from this quarter. I am etc.[84]

To BARON DE KALB

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 11, 1780.

Dear Sir: I am favd. with yours of this morning. I very much approve of your keeping up water Guards, which, if alert, will prevent any passage from the Island without discovery: But still further to prevent a movement towards you without notice, I would wish you to engage the Militia Light Horse again, to remain in service untill we see what the present indications of the Enemy mean. A knowledge of the kind of Vessels which the enemy are said to have taken up, will, in some measure, lead to a determination upon the object which they may have in view. If of the larger kind, I should hardly suppose they meant them for the passage of the Sound. I would wish you to endeavour to ascertain this point.

There were certain Signals established for alarming the Militia in case of a serious movement, but I fear they have of late

[84] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

been neglected and have got out of repair. Mr. Caldwell can inform you better than any person where the Signals were placed and of the methods fixed upon for communicating the Alarm to the Country. I must request you to apply to him for the necessary information upon the subject and to lose no time in having matters so arranged that we may upon the shortest notice call in the force of the Country. You are not to depend upon the Militia for doing this, but send parties to repair any of the signals which may want it.

You will be pleased to communicate any intelligence which may reach you as speedily as possible. I am &c.[85]

P. S. Be pleased to inform me immediately of the situation in which you find the signals from Mr. Caldwell's report.[86]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Sunday, March 12, 1780.

Parole Temperance. Countersigns Tattoo, Time.

The regimental Cloathiers of Hazen's, Spencer's, Angell's Jackson's, Webb's, Sherburne's and Livingston's regiments are to attend tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock at the Cloathier General's store in Morristown to receive their respective proportions of cloathing. Brigadier General Knox will be pleased to appoint a person to attend at the same time and place to receive the proportion of cloathing for the brigade of Artillery.

The Court of Enquiry whereof Colonel Spencer is Presidt., having made strict examination into the conduct of Captain Van Dyck respecting the death of a Negro soldier belonging to Captain Bernard's company in Colonel Wyllys's regiment, report as follows, (Vizt.)

[85] De Kalb replied (March 15) and also inclosed a list of the "Signals on which the militia are Immediately to Assembly" and their locations. De Kalb's reply is in the *Washington Papers*.

[86] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

"The Court considering the evidence are fully of opinion that Captain Van Dyck being in the line of his duty, his conduct on the occasion was highly justifiable."

The Commander in Chief approves the judgment of the court, and the Court is dissolved.

To COLONEL RETURN JONATHAN MEIGS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 12, 1780.

Sir: Yours of the 24th. ulto. reached me yesterday. I imagine from your letter you will be setting out for the Camp by the time this gets to your hands; the scarcity of Field Officers, of whom there are barely sufficient to perform the necessary duties obliges me to request you to join your Regt. with as much dispatch as possible. I am &c.[87]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Monday, March 13, 1780.

Parole Venerable. Countersigns Veteran, Vigor.

A General Court Martial of the line is to sit tomorrow 10 o'clock at the new store room in Morristown for the trial of Doctor William Shippen junior and such other persons as may be brought before them, Brigadier General Hand is appointed President, Colonels Hazen and Proctor Lieutenant Colonels De Hart and North and Majors Thayer and Grier are appointed members, a Captain from each Brigade in Camp except the second Maryland and 1st. Pennsylvania and the Brigade of Artillery will also attend as members.

By a Division General Court Martial of the Pennsylvania line held the 22nd. day of February last Col. W. Stewart, President,

[87] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Samuel Bell and Robert Powers, soldiers of the 10th. Pennsylvania regiment and Thomas Brown and Jacob Justice soldiers of the 7th. Pennsylvania regiment confined for "Plundering Mr. Bogart an Inhabitant near Paramus" were tried and found guilty of a breach of the 21st. article, 13th section of the articles of war and sentenced each of them to be hanged, more than two thirds of the Court agreeing.

The Commander in Chief approves the sentence.

AFTER ORDERS

Colonel Johnston is appointed officer of the day tomorrow in place of Colonel Ogden who is to sit on general court martial in place of Colonel Hazen, Lieutt. Col. Mentges is appointed member of the same Court in place of Col. Proctor, excused.

To COLONEL JOHN MEHELM

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 13, 1780.

Sir: I have received Your Letter of the 9th: Instant with the Extract from the Letter of the Board of War to which You refer. I think it not altogether unlikely that Mr Taylor,[88] as well as some others who were employed in the same way, has imposed on the public. The order he obtained for hides was in consequence of receipts produced for Shoes delivered chiefly if not wholly to the Virginia line. There was no deduction made from his claim that I recollect on account of the Work of the Soldiers. This appears highly equitable and it being conformable to the views of the Honorable Board I wish you, notwithstanding the Order which was given,[89] to settled with Mr. Taylor for any allowance to which the States may be

[88] Obediah Taylor. He was Deputy Commissary of Hides(?).

[89] An order issued by the Board of War (Jan. 20, 1780) forbidding Mehelm to furnish any more hides to Taylor until his accounts were settled. This order is in the *Washington Papers*.

intitled for the service of the Soldiers who worked with him and that he may receive Hides only in proportion to the Ballance. I am &c.[90]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 14, 1780.

Gentlemn: In answer to Your Letter of the 4th Instant which I had the Honor of receiving the 12th, I beg leave to inform you, that from the diminution of our force at Fort Pitt by the expiration of the Men's inlistments and the impracticability of replacing them from hence there is no prospect of our undertaking shortly any offensive operations in that Quarter. I would not wish this however to delay the sending on the articles requested by my Letter of the 8th Ulto. which the Board have been pleased to have provided, after the Roads will admit of it. I have the Honor, etc.

P. S. In a letter from Colo. Brodhead of the 11th Feby. he mentions the want of a few Armourers at Fort Pitt. the Board will be pleased to order them from the most convenient place, which will be from Carlisle.[91]

To COLONEL DANIEL BRODHEAD

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 14, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 11th: ulto. You will, I imagine, long before this time, have received mine of the 4th. of January, which acknowledges yours of the 10th. and 22d. Novemr. and 13th: Decemr. What I hinted in that letter respecting an expedition against the Natches and the English

[90] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

[91] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison; the P. S. is in that of Tench Tilghman.

settlements upon the Missisippi is now at an end, the Spaniards having already possessed those posts.

From the accounts which you have received of the enemy's force at Detroit, and my Ideas of yours, (having received no late Returns) it is evident that you can make no attempt upon that place; But if you think yourself competent to an excursion against any of the hostile tribes of Indians, you are at liberty, as I have mentioned in some of my former letters, to undertake it. In your next Return, be pleased to let me know the different terms of service of your own Regiment and of the 9th. Virginia, and let the Returns, of late Rawlins's and the independent Companies, not only specify the terms of service, but to what States the Men who compose them, belong. This is necessary, to enable me to give the States credit for their Men serving in detached Corps.

I had, upon the 8th: February, desired the Board of War to prepare a certain quantity of Ordnance and Stores for Fort Pitt, and recommended to them to endeavour to send them up while the snow was on the ground, if they should be of opinion, that it would be possible to pass the Mountains at that season. I imagine it was deemed impracticable, as they wrote me on the 4th: Inst. that the Stores were ready and would go off as soon as the Roads would permit. I have directed Genl. Knox to detach an Officer of Artillery with a proper number of Men for the duty of the Garrison at Fort Pitt.

I am under the necessity of disapproving the sentence against Lt. Gordon[92] on account of the irregular constitution of the Court. A General Court Martial can only be held by order of the Commander in Chief, or of a General Officer commanding a separate department, or in any one of the States. But that

[92] Lieut. Arthur Gordon, of the Ninth Virginia Regiment. In Brodhead's letter to Washington (Apr. 24, 1780), in the *Washington Papers,* he stated: "Mr. Arthur Gordon has deserted from his arrest and will probably avoid a new trial."

justice may be duly administered, I inclose a power, by which Mr. Gordon may be brought to a new trial, as may any other prisoners whose cases may require a General Court. I return the former proceedings.

My apprehensions, that the Boats would be lost, if they were suffered to be taken into employ for common purposes, was the reason of my directing them to be carefully laid up untill wanted. And I perceive, by your letter, that my fears were not groundless. The expence of the materials for Boat Building and the Wages of proper Workmen, are at this time so enormous, that, as there is little or no prospect of any offensive operations. I shall not give orders for the number of Carpenters you mention. The Boats that have been saved are, I imagine, more than sufficient for the purposes of transporting stores &c. from post to post. I have desired the Board of War to direct a few Armourers to be sent up. In one of your former letters you expressed a Wish of coming down the Country to visit your family. Upon the prospect of matters at that time, I did not think it expedient for you to leave the post: But I think in the present situation of Affairs to the Westward you may take an opportunity of doing it. You will be the best judge of the matter when this gets to your hands, and will determine upon the propriety of the measure from circumstances. I take it for granted that Colo. Gibson will remain at the post should you come down, as I would not choose that a place of such consequence should be intrusted to an Officer of inferiour Rank. I am &c.[93]

To MOTTIN AUGUSTIN DE LA BALME

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 14, 1780.

Sir: I have received Your Letter of the 5th of this month. It is very much my wish to do justice to the merits and zeal of

[93] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

every Foreign Officer who has served in this Country, but unhappily it is not in my power to comply with your request. I cannot recollect, although I have endeavoured to do it, either the substance of the Letters You mention to have brought with You when you came to America, or the Characters by whom they were given; and I am sorry your services since your arrival owing to a want of opportunity or to their not coming to my knowledge, have not been such as would justify me in giving a Certificate in your Favor.[94] I am etc.[95]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Tuesday, March 14, 1780.

Parole Vivacity. Countersigns Wit, Wine.

The Brigade Majors are to make accurate returns of the numbers of the company books, soldiers books and Regulations delivered each regiment in their respective brigades and the numbers of each wanting. These returns to be made by tomorrow at orderly time and delivered at the Orderly Office.

The State Cloathiers of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticutt are to apply immediately at the Cloathier General's Store in Morristown for their respective proportions of cloathing.

To THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 15, 1780.

Gentn.: General Arnold has informed me by a Letter of the 6th, received the Afternoon of the 13th, that your Honourable Board had requested him to communicate to me, that they had in contemplation an expedition with several of our Frigates,

[94] La Balme had resigned in October, 1777.

[95] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

and wished to know whether Three or Four Hundred Men could be spared from the Army to act in conjunction with them, and as Marines occasionally for about Two Months. He also informed me, that he had offered to command the expedition, if it should be agreeable to me.

With respect to the Troops I beg leave to acquaint the Board, that, from the Detachments lately sent to the Southward and the great diminution of our force besides, occasioned by the daily expiration of the Mens inlistments, it appears to me that none can be spared from the Army, consistently with prudence or policy. But should the Board finally determine on the proposed Enterprise and the Troops be essential to it's success; I would farther beg leave to observe that, under the circumstances of the Army I have stated, I should not think myself authorized to send them, without the concurrence and direction of Congress. And as to the second point, General Arnold's offer to command the expedition, the matter will depend entirely on Congress, the Board and himself. I have the Honor, etc.[96]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JACOB BAYLEY

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 15, 1780.

Sir: Inclosed you will find a duplicate of my letter of the 9th: which I have thought proper to forward by Colo. Little[97] lest the original may have missed you.

I was a few days ago favd. with yours of the 16th. ulto. Altho' my intelligences from Canada are of a different complexion from yours, I will not undertake to say that your fears of an attack are groundless; but I do not look upon myself at liberty to authorise the raising the two Companies of

[96] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.
[97] Col. Moses(?) Little.

Volunteers mentioned by you or to promise them pay or provision at Continental expence. If the measure is thought expedient and necessary by the State, it will lay with them to make application to Congress on the subject and obtain an order not only for the pay but for the public provision which may have been expended.

I find, by referring to the Resolves of Congress, that the Commissioners of Indian Affairs for the Northern department were directed in July 1775 to take into consideration the case of the Indian Youths at Dartmouth Colledge and then to pay the Sum of 500 dollars towards their support. A further application in their behalf should in my opinion be addressed to the Commissioners. General Schuyler and Mr. Douw of Albany are two of them, and, if I am not mistaken, a Mr. Edwards[98] of Connecticut is another. I think in point of policy we ought to cultivate the friendship of these people, as their connexions in Canada have been faithful and essentially useful to us. I am &c.[99]

To JOHN BEATTY

Morris Town, March 15, 1780.

Sir: I have received Your Letter of Yesterday and inclose you the Return You request. It was transmitted to His Excellency by Congress with a Copy of a letter from Major General Phillips.[1] If it is insisted on the Enemy must be allowed their claim for the privates it comprehends, although the General's information with respect to them, farther than as it rests upon the Return itself and the correspondence which accompanied it from

[98] Timothy Edwards. He was Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the Northern Department.

[99] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[1] Neither Beatty's nor Major General Phillips's letters are now found in the *Washington Papers*.

Genl Phillips, is entirely vague and imperfect; nor has he been able to procure from the inquiries he has made on the point, any that was satisfactory.

The first intimation he had of the claim was when he received the Return from Congress. I am etc.[2]

To BARON DE KALB

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 16, 1780.

Dr Sir: I have been favored with your letter of the 14th with its inclosure. With respect to Bedkins corps there have been as yet no orders from any authority to countenance what is proposed: and 'till something is adopted for the cavalry in general his corps must remain in its present condition.

The propriety or impropriety of a change in the cantonments of troops under your command, can be best determined by yourself. If their present position in your opinion should appear to be the safest, little matter of convenience or the like are no inducements for an alteration. I am etc.[3]

To COLONEL JOSIAH STARR[4] AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL ISAAC SHERMAN[5]

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 16, 1780.

Gentn: I have recd. your favor of yesterday. I am not unacquainted with the difficulties and distresses of those Officers who have not yet been provided with Cloathing by the States to which they respectively belong, or by the Continent at large. Those who have only the latter dependance, are in a worse

[2] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "Rob: H: Harrison, Secy."
[3] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.
[4] Of the First Connecticut Regiment. He retired in January, 1781.
[5] Commandant of the Eighth Connecticut Regiment. He was transferred to the Fifth Connecticut Regiment in January, 1781, and retired in January, 1783.

situation than those belonging to particular States as they have seldom or ever drawn those kind of stores which contribute to the comforts of a military life. It having been recommended to the respective states by Congress, to provide Cloathing for their Officers and Men, I do not know that any means have been fallen upon by the Continental Agents to supply the former; and it is very much to be regretted, for the reasons you have pointed out, that all the States had not adopted the measure, and executed it in a similar manner whether it had extended to a partial or general supply. It certainly would have rendered the distresses of the Army much more tolerable, had they, upon a comparative view, found themselves in every respect upon the same footing.

I understood from General Parsons that the principal motive of his Visit to Connecticut was to represent the situation of the line to the Legislature then sitting. As I have not heard from him, I cannot tell whether he has had any or what success upon his application. But should I find upon seeing or hearing from him, that he has been disappointed in his expectations of relief, I shall think it incumbent upon me to transmit to the state the representation made by you in behalf of the Officers of your line.

Particular circumstances do not admit of the Relief of the Connecticut troops just at this time, but I shall take the earliest occasion to do it. I have the honour &c.[6]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL UDNY HAY

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 16, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I have received your letter of the 11th of this month. When the Army requires the service of the waggoners now

[6] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

employed as expresses and should the necessity continue for extending the number of express riders beyond the establishment you will use your discretion, proportioning what you may be obliged to call in to the real exigency of the case, and dismissing them as soon as that exigency is over. However useful the number of stationary expresses which you point to, may be considered, yet we must not attempt any further innovation on this head at this time.

Your exertions during the precarious state of our supplies, I am well informed has been productive of very happy effects. You have my thanks, and I make no doubt of your continuing to do every thing in your power to forward the service. I am etc.[7]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 16, 1780.

D. Sir: I have received your Excellency's letter of the 8th of this month in favor of Capn. Fitzrandolph.[8] The Capns. known zeal and usefulness entitle him to consideration and I shall be very well pleased if we can effect any thing towards his relief or releasement. At present commissioners from the enemy, and on our part are sitting at Amboy for the purpose of an exchange of prisoners. Should the parties be happy enough to agree upon terms of a general cartel, your Excellency may be assured that in carrying it into effect, I shall give directions that his exchange be made an object. But if no agreement of this kind takes place, I cannot promise an exclusive or partial exchange for the Captn. The length of confinement of

[7] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

[8] Capt. Nathaniel Fitzrandolph, of the New Jersey Militia. He had been wounded and taken prisoner at Long Island in August, 1776; exchanged in May, 1780; died of wounds received at Springfield, N. J., in June, 1780.

many of our officers, some of whom have been prisoners since the affair of Long Island, has alone made them extremely sensible of any exchange, which has the least appearance of partiality. This, besides the infringing the order established for carrying on partial exchanges, which gives the preference to the oldest officer in captivity will put it out of my power to do any thing in this line; especially under the present state and circumstances of our prisoners. With the most perfect regard etc.[9]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Thursday, March 16, 1780.

Parole Yawn. Countersigns Zany, Zaffer.

The General congratulates the army on the very interesting proceedings of the Parliament of Ireland and of the Inhabitants of that Country which have been lately communicated; not only as they appear calculated to remove those heavy and tyrannical oppressions on their trade but to restore to a brave and generous People their ancient Rights and Freedom and by their operation to promote the cause of America.[10] Desirous of impressing on the minds of the Army, transactions so important in their nature, the General directs that all fatigue and working parties cease for tomorrow the 17th., a day held in particular regard by the People of that nation. At the same time that he orders this he persuades himself that the celebration of the day will not be attended with the least rioting or disorder. The officers to be at their quarters in camp and the troops of each state line are to keep within their own encampment.

[9] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

[10] The Irish Parliament had petitioned Great Britain for the removal of trade restrictions and Lord North had announced in the British Parliament that the petition would most likely receive favorable consideration.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 17, 1780.

Sir: I am sorry to inform Congress that I am again under great apprehensions on the score of our Provision supplies. There is not now in Camp and within its vicinity, more meal and Grain than will furnish the Troops with Five days bread, notwithstanding the exertions that have been made to lay in a supply; and I fear from the badness of the Roads and the difficulty of procuring Teams, that it will be hardly practicable to draw relief in time from the more distant Mills in the State, at which Congress will observe by the Inclosure No 1 (the Return of Colo Dunham, Superintendent of State purchases) that there is a small quantity both of Meal and Grain in Store. I have written to this Officer and urged him in the most pressing terms to exert himself to bring on a supply.[11]

With respect to meat, the Issuing Commissary's Return No 2, will shew the quantity in the Magazine at this place. This by an economical and scanty issue, may serve for about Forty days. When this is expended, I do not know how the Army will be subsisted with this Article. I find from the account of One of Colo Dunham's Assistants, that there is very little if any meat to be expected from this State, which exerted itself so very considerably on a late occasion; and from a Letter of the 25th Ulto. just received from Colo Blaine, of which I have the honor to transmit a Copy, the prospect of obtaining a supply from Connecticut, which was chiefly relied on, seems to be little better; at least for some time. Besides this Letter, which is rather of an old date, I have received One from another Gentleman, dated at Hartford the 10th. Instant, informing me, "that the Assembly had dissolved without having come into any measures to

[11] See Washington's letter to Azariah Dunham, Mar. 18, 1780, *post*.

promote the supply of the Army, and that Colo Blaine had not prevailed on any person to act in his department on the terms he was authorised to allow; that there was no public purchaser of provisions in the State and Colo Champion had sent off the last of his Cattle." I thought it my duty to communicate these interesting points.[12]

On the 9th. Commissioners from the Two Armies met at Amboy on the subject of the proposed exchange of prisoners, who are still together. I shall do myself the Honor to transmit the Result of their proceedings, by the earliest opportunity, after they are known. I have the Honor, etc.[13]

*To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 18, 1780.

My dear Marqs: Your polite and obliging letter of the 10th. of Octr. from Havre came to my hands since the beging. of this month. It filled me with a pleasure intermixed with pain. To hear that you were well, to find you breathing the same affectione. sentiments that ever have most conspicuously, markd your conduct towards me and that you continued to deliver them with unabated attachmt. contributes greatly to my happiness. On the other hand, to hear that not one of the many letters which I have written to you since you left this Continent had arrived safe was not only surprizing but mortifying, notwithstanding you have the goodness to acct. for it

[12] Copies of the documents referred to in the letter, with the exception of the extract of the letter of March 10, are filed with the letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*. The originals, including the letter of March 10, which was from Royal Flint, are in the *Washington Papers*.

[13] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The letter was read in Congress on March 21 and referred to the Board of War.

On March 17 Washington wrote briefly to Maj. Thomas Cogswell, referring his request for a furlough to the commanding officer on the North River. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

on its true principles. With much truth I can assure you, that besides the Letter which ought to have been delivered you at Boston (containing such testimonials of your merit and services as I thought a tribute justly due from me) and which was dispatched soon after it returned to me, I wrote you two or three times between that and the opening of the Campaign in June. In the Month of July I wrote you a long letter from New Windsor. About the first of Septr. I addressed you again; the last of the same Month, after I had been favoured with yr. affectionate letter by the Chevr. de la Luzerne, I wrote you a very long letter to go by Monsr. Gerard; and some time in October I again wrote to you by Monsr. de la Colombe, Copys of all which, to the best of my recollection, have been duely forwarded; it is a little unfortunate then that out of the whole I should not be able to get one of them safe.[14]

I have been thus particular My dear friend that in case there should be the least suspicion of my want of friendship or want of attention, it may be totally removed; as it is my earnest wish to convince you by every testimony that an affectionate regard can dictate, of my sincere attachment to your person, and fortunes.

For the copy of your letter to Congress, and the several pieces of intelligence which you did me the favor to transmit, you will be pleased to accept my warmest thanks. our eyes are now turned to Europe; the manœuvres of the field, long 'ere this, must have yielded to those of the cabinet, and I hope G. Britn. will be as much foiled in her management of the latter as she has been in the former. her having formed no Alliances, nor been able to contract for more foreign troops, exhibits interesting proofs of it; which are not a little

[14] This letter of March 18 suffered the same fate of not reaching Lafayette. He sailed from France for America before the end of March.

enlivened by the dispositions of the People of Ireland; who feel the importance of a critical moment to shake off those badges of Slavery they have so long worn.[15]

Since my last, a Detachment (if it can be called a detachment where the Commander in chief of an army is) consisting of the Grenrs. and light Infantry and some other chosen corps, amounting in the whole to between five and 6000 Men, embarkd for Georgia. The 26th. of Decr. they left Sandy hook under Convoy of 5 Ships of the line and several frigates commanded by Admiral Arbuthnot. Generl. Clinton and Lord Cornwallis went with them. We have accts. that part of this fleet had arrived at Savanna (in Georgia); that it suffered very considerably in the stormy weather that followed their Sailing, in which there is good reason to believe that most of their Horses were thrown over board, and that some of their ships foundered. indeed we are not without reports that many of the Transports were driven to the West Indies; how far these accts are to be credited I shall not undertake to determine, but certain it is, the fleet has been much dispersed and their operations considerably delayed, if not deranged, by the tempestuous weather they had to encounter during the whole month of January. The enemy, that they might bend their operations more forceably to the Southward, and at the same-time leave New York and its dependancies sufficiently garrisoned have withdrawn their troops from Rhode Island.

As the enemys intentions of operating in the Southern States began to unfd. I began to detach Troops to their aid, accordingly in Novr. the North Carolina Brigade took up its march for Charles-town, and were followed abt. the middle of Decr. by the Troops of Virginia; but the extreme cold, the deep Snows, and other impediments have retarded the

[15] See General Orders, Mar. 16, 1780.

progress of their march very considerable. The oldest people now living in this Country do not remember so hard a Winter as the one we are now emerging from. In a word, the severity of the frost exceeded anything of the kind that had ever been experienced in this climate before. I beg leave to make a tender of my best respects to Madm. La Fayette, and to offer fresh assurances, of being with sentiments of great and sincere friendship etc.

To AZARIAH DUNHAM

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 18, 1780.

Sir: By a Return made to me this morning by Mr. Forman[16] in your behalf, I find that there are considerable quantities of Meal and Grain in the Mills from thirty to sixty Miles distance from Camp. The necessities of the Army, at this time, call for the most vigorous exertions in having what is ground brought immediately forward, as it appears from a Return made to me this day, by Mr. Gamble[17] Asst. Commy. of Issues, that he has not a pound of Flour upon hand, and but 1200 Bush. of Corn and five hundred Bushels of Wheat; the former of which, I fear, we shall be obliged to issue unground. I am convinced, if a representation of the matter is made by you to the several Gentlemen who have the direction of forwarding the above mentioned Articles, and by them, to the Magistrates of the respective districts, that they will take measures for putting the provision in motion in as expeditious a manner as possible. I therefore request you to write immediately to the persons concerned in the Business, and urge, to them, the necessity of their immediate exertions. In short, our dependance, until the state of the Roads will permit Flour from the southward to come on,

[16] Aaron Forman. He was assistant to Azariah Dunham.
[17] James Gamble.

is intirely upon what is included in your Return of this day. I am &c.[18]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Sunday, March 19, 1780.

Parole Bacon. Countersigns Beef, Brandy.

Two trusty soldiers from each regiment of Infantry and a good active serjeant from each brigade with their Arms Accoutrements, Blankets, Packs &c. are to assemble on the grand parade tomorrow morning at troop beating. The officers of the day will have them formed into Platoons and the Brigade Major of the day will march them to Head Quarters where they are to join His Excellency's Guards 'till further orders.

To COLONEL JOHN GUNBY

March 19, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have received Your Favor of this date and am exceedingly sorry that the difficulties you mention exist. But the cloathing sent by the State for her Officers, being of a mere State nature and subject, it would seem of course to a mode of distribution to be fixed and adjusted by themselves. I do not see how His Excellency could interfere or give any order with respect to it. In this view, and as I know that he declined having any thing to do with the distribution of the Cloathing and Stores furnished by Virginia to her Officers, and has never given any direction in the instance of any other State Stores of this kind. I have not communicated the subject of your Letter to him, which probably was your intention. It would not certainly be difficult for a division to take place upon just and proper principles, and I would willingly hope from the evident propriety

[18] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

of the thing and the spirit of accommodation in all the Gentlemen interested that one will be made in a manner agreeable to the Whole. I am etc.[19]

To JOHN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 19, 1780.

Sir: His Excellency desires that you will be pleased to make an order on Messrs. Otis & Henley of Boston, in favor of Col Crane of the 3rd. Regt. of artillery, directing clothing for such a number of soldiers as he may inlist, and that an account may be transmitted you, that it may be known what to enter against the regiment. I am etc.[20]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 20, 1780.

Sir: On Saturday Evening I was honoured with Your Excellency's Letters of the 9th and 11th Instant, with the papers to which they refer. The several subjects they respect will have my attention and consideration as far as circumstances and when opportunity will permit. I can only trouble Your Excellency upon the present occasion with a request, that the whole of the proceedings in the case of Major General Arnold may be transmitted to me. It is Essential that I should have them, as the Charges and sentence against him must be published in Orders together, and the former are not comprehended in the Extract You were pleased to send me; and as without them I cannot fulfill the determination of the Court, which requires an Act to be done by me posterior to the Resolution of Congress, and

[19] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "R: H: Harrison."
[20] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "James McHenry."

which must in propriety result from an attentive perusal of the proceedings. I have the Honor etc.[21]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 20, 1780.

Gentlemen: By the inclosed papers you will find that the arrangement of the subalterns of the 8th Massachusetts Regt. which was delivered by General Patterson to the Board of General Officers appointed to arrange that line was not the proper one, and consequently, that the Commissions issued were erroneous in point of date and regimental precedency. This you will perceive by comparing the Commissions which have been issued and which I return with the true arrangement which is inclosed. This amendment being confined to the subalterns of the 8th: Regiment only will not affect the rights of any other Regt. or the line at large. I shall be glad to have the new Commissions as soon as possible as the Officers find an inconvenience, when upon duty, without them. I have the honor etc.

P. S. I have recd. Mr. Stodderts letter inclosing Copy of the arrangement of the subs of the Massachusetts line.[22]

*To JOHN MITCHELL

Head Quarters, Morris-town, March 20, 1780.

Dr. Sir: You will do me a favour by enquiring, and letting me know as soon as possible, if any good Coachmaker in Phila.

[21] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

On March 19 Judge Advocate John Laurance, on the request of Harrison, forwarded to headquarters a copy of the charges against Arnold. These charges are in the *Washington Papers*.

[22] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Stoddert's letter of March 15 is in the *Washington Papers*, but the inclosed arrangement is not found. There is, however, a "List of the Subordinate officers of the Massachusetts Line" in the Force Transcript of *Continental Army Returns* (vol. 100, fol. 204), which were formerly a part of the *Washington Papers*, the original of which should be in the office of the Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C.

or German Town (Bringhurst[23] for instance) will engage to make me a genteel plain Chariot with neat Harness for four horses to go with two postilions. I wish to know the terms and in how short a time it can be done. I also beg to know if the harness could be soon had without the carriage.

That the Workmen may be at no loss to fix a just price on these things on Acct. of the fluctuating, and uncertain state of our Curry. he may make his estimates in Specie which shall either be paid him immediately upon delivery of the Work, or in paper money at the difference of exchange then prevailing, be it little or much; this will put the matter upon so clear and unequivocal a footing that he can be at no loss in fixing prices, nor be under the smallest inducemt. to ask an enormous price in order to gd. against the evil consequences of depreciation.

You will do me a favr. by answering this letter speedily as I have particular reasons for requesting it. I am etc.

P. S. I must beg the favr. of you to enquire further, whether Nails and other kind of mounting, and trimmings, necessary to the lining and finishing of a Chariot could be had in any of the Shops, or from any of the Coachmakers in Phila. There is a good workman at Springfield (in this State) but he has not this kind of furniture by him necessary to compleat a chariot.[24]

To BARON DE KALB[25]

Head Quarters, Morris town, March 21, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favr. of yesterday, inclosing a letter for General Greene, which I shall not deliver to him, as

[23] George Bringhurst, Philadelphia coachmaker.

[24] Mitchell answered (March 25) that "a Neat Genteel Chariot which is near finished," could be procured with the harness, in two or three weeks. "The price is Two Hundred and Ten pounds in Gold or the Value thereof in Current money." He believed this was as cheap as a chariot could be obtained or made. Mitchell's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[25] He was stationed at Springfield, N. J.

I know he has not at present the means of building the Boats you mention. I would therefore recommend to you, to pick out the best of those which you may find in the several Rivers for the purpose of Guard Boats.

Upon referring to and reconsidering your former letter upon this subject, I am of opinion that the stations which you then pointed out will be dangerous, so far as they respect the distance between Elizabeth town and Amboy; the sound there being so exceedingly narrow, that a Boat pushed suddenly from the opposite shore in the night would more than probably take ours. Besides I do not think we are to look for a descent in any considerable force from that quarter. The enemy have generally hitherto embarked either at Long Island or upon the farther side of Staten Island, and have come thro' the Kilns and across New Ark Bay, thereby avoiding all discovery from this shore, which they would be subject to any where between Elizabeth town and Amboy. New Ark Bay is therefore in my opinion the proper and safe place for your Guard Boats to ply. It is of considerable extent and a fleet of Boats may be discovered either by their[26] working, or by sight, some time before their approach.

We have found on repeated experiments that the inhabitants will not remove their stock, untill the moment of danger; indeed at this season they have no places to send them, where they can be supplied with food. I would therefore have you give as general information as in your power, that an incursion of the enemy may be expected and recommend to the people to drive back their Stock upon the first communication of an alarm.

I do not think it probable that the Enemy will put their designs, if they have any, into execution, while our Commis-

[26] At this point the draft has the following crossed off: "the noise of their Oars."

sioners are sitting at Amboy; I mention this as a matter of opinion only, and would not wish you to relax your Vigilance on that account. You will no doubt have the signals in the utmost State of preparation, and keep a small party stationed with the Alarm Guns below Chatham. I am &c.[27]

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 21, 1780.

Dr Sir: I have before me your two favors of the 16 and 17th. instant.

I am pleased to find that the notice you had received of the preparations of the enemy, was such as to anticipate my information to you on this subject. Should any attempt be really intended, and take place, against this or your quarter, I am satisfied that nothing which our circumstances will permit, will be left undone on your part. I presume that you are sufficiently acquainted with the signals for alarming the country, and their application, provided it should become necessary to call in the militia.

It is among the things to be lamented, that the state and prospect of our supplies of provisions is not better. The embarrassments on this head are disheartning; but it is to be hoped we shall get over them.

Your ideas respecting the chain[28] have not escaped me. But although I have thought of its insufficiency, and looked towards its improvement, yet I could not conceive much reasonable hope of any considerable alteration. With so much to do in our circumstances, it was impossible to do all. And that which was most important naturally claimed the principal attention. What appears most within our compass, and which

[27] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[28] Across the Hudson at West Point.

in my opinion will augment the strength of the chain are the cables and anchors that have been proposed; and I wish you to lay the matter before Colonel Hay D Q M G. and consult him how far the obtaining such articles is practicable.

With regard to the question on Stoney and Verplanks points. It is not easy to calculate instructions for all possible cases; or even what should be the precise mode of conduct in a particular one; because it is difficult, if not impossible to comprehend a thorough knowledge of the circumstances which may take place, and which are subject to constant variation. If we were to consider only the original purpose of these works, as intended to cover the ferry-way, and in some degree to afford a protection to the neighbouring shores, we should not perhaps be induced to expose their garrisons to certain capture. But if we combine with these objects a weak state of the garrison of West-point, and the time to be gained for calling in the militia or drawing forward remote succours, and which would be derived from a proper resistance made at Kings-ferry, it might dispose us to hazard the investiture and attack of its two posts. But here we would be guided by the real force of the enemy, and their intentions against West-point; the state of our own strength there, and the capability of the works at Stoney point and Verplanks for a serious defence, with the general good, or in inconveniencies which would result from their defence or evacuation. You will also observe that it is altogether out of my power to go beyond provisionary instructions on this head, and that circumstances must decide your conduct, should the enemy operate your way.

As to the present weak state of the force at West-point, and the change which may be made in it by calling in a part of General Poors brigade, I would prefer to this the measure you hint of moving troops from the cantonment on the opposite

side, at least for the present, or till some substantial occasion shall occur for a further support.

Inclosed you will find a letter to the deputy clothier at Newburg, in which he is directed to hold the clothing left in his hands, at the disposal of the officer commanding at the Highlands. This clothing being intended for the supply of the troops of the Massachusetts and New Hampshire lines and the detachment of artillery at West-point, you will be pleased to call upon the commanding officers of these corps for exact returns of their deficiencies of clothing, and apportion the quantity in store to their respective wants [the state Cloathiers drawing it by your order.]

I return the proceedings of the Court martial transmitted in your letter of the 17th. for your own approbation or disapprobation. The articles of war authorise the general officer commanding in either of the "American States for the time being" under a resolve of the 14th of April 1777 to decide in all such cases &c.

I have to request that you will be particular in sending forward the monthly return of the state of the troops under your command. I am &c.[29]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Tuesday, March 21, 1780.

Parole Derry. Countersigns Dublin, Dundee.

A Corporal and three men from each of the Maryland brigades and a Corporal and three men from Maxwell's brigade are to be sent to Commissary Gamble tomorrow morning to be put as guards at the Mills now grinding grain for the Army.

[29] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

On March 21 Washington wrote a brief note to Col. Michael Jackson, of the Eighth Massachusetts Regiment, that he had requested new commissions from the Board of War for Jackson's subalterns. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Wednesday, March 22, 1780.

Parole Emancipation. Countersigns Epicene, Epigram.

Two or three Coopers from each regiment in camp, if there are such, to be sent early tomorrow morning to the provision Magazine in Morristown to assist in repairing barrels and repacking salt provisions.

By a General Court Martial of the line held by order of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, February the 16th. Colonel Humpton President.

Lieutenant Colonel Howard of the Maryland line was tried on the following charges:

First. "Disobedience of orders of the 17th., 18th., and 24th. days of January in point of cantoning the battalion or detachment under his care and command and not parading the battalion and remaining with it, or otherwise having it in a state and condition fit for action, agreeable to the orders given him on the evening of the 30th. of January for that purpose.

Secondly. For neglect of duty in not furnishing the morning reports and weekly returns of his battalion at the time ordered and in a correct military manner.

Thirdly. For unjustifiable orders or returns, signed by himself on the Issuing Commissary," and plead not guilty.

The Court having considered the several charges against Lieutenant Colonel Howard and the evidence are of opinion: That he is not guilty of disobedience of the several orders specified in the 1st. charge with respect to the cantoning the battalion or detachment under his command or of either of them. They are of opinion that he is guilty of disobedience of orders in not having his battalion paraded the evening of the 30th. of

January, and not remaining with the part that was paraded, and in not having it in a state and condition fit for action, which they consider as a breach of that part of section 2nd, article 5th. of the rules and articles of war which respects a disobedience of orders.

With respect to the 2nd. charge, it appears to the court that no neglect of duty can be imputed to Lieut. Col. Howard relative to the returns of his battalion not coming in at the time ordered; but they are of opinion that in general the reports he furnished were incorrect and unmilitary which they consider as a breach of article 5th. section 18th. of the Rules and Articles of War.

With respect to the last charge, it appears to the Court that Lieut. Col. Howard while he was on the lines, drew an order on the Issuing Commissary for rum for the officers of his battalion; That in many orders on the Issuing Commissary for provisions for his battalion he included many waiters or officers who had no arms and were not included in the returns of the detachment made to the commanding officer; In these instances the Court are of opinion that Lieut. Colonel Howard's conduct was unjustifiable and a breach of article 5th. section 18th. of the Rules and Articles of War.

The Court do sentence Lieut. Colonel Howard to be reprimanded in general orders.

The Commander in Chief approves the opinion of the Court in the instances in which they acquit Lieut. Colonel Howard, but painful as it is to him at all times to differ from a Court Martial in sentiment, he cannot concur with them in opinion where they find him guilty of disobedience of orders in not parading his battalion and not remaining with the part that was paraded, and in not having it in a condition fit for action. From the evidence and a comparative view of the

circumstances of time, extent of cantonment, men on duty, the number of them actually on parade when he was arrested with the amount of his battalion, the extreme severity of the weather at that period and other matters which occur in the proceedings; it appears to the General that Lieutenant Colonel Howard endeavored to have his battalion paraded as soon as it could be done, and that although the whole number of his men, not on other duty or sick might not have been paraded at any time during the evening of the alarm, the failure did not proceed from any neglect or want of care on his part and might be well ascribed, both as to delay, and the deficiency of the men, to some of the causes mentioned above.

Neither does it appear to the General that Lieut. Col. Howard can be considered as having been absent from the men paraded as he was never farther than his quarters, which were quite contiguouy to the parade, and this it seems while the men were walking the parade to keep themselves warm, and after stacking their arms, in consequence of orders delivered by Lieutenant Duff[30] who acted as Adjutant, and who said he had received the permission from Colonel Hazen.

Nor does the General find, from any evidence in the course of the trial that the men were in a condition unfit for action; Their walking the parade and stacking their arms to warm themselves seem to have been justified by the severity of the weather and the explicit permission delivered by Mr. Duff.

Lieut. Col. Howard was wrong in drawing an order on the Issuing Commissary for rum for the officers of his battalion, tho' the quantity was not considerable. Their supply or whatever they drew of this article should have been in common with the officers of the other battalions and the effect of an order

[30] Lieut. Henry Duff, of the First Delaware Regiment. He was taken prisoner at Camden, S. C., in August, 1780, and retired in May, 1782.

from Colonel Hazen who commanded the detachment; And as the object of returns is to preserve system and order and to operate in many cases as mutual checks, Lieut. Col. Howard should have made a perfect correspondence between his battalion and provision returns by an explanatory note or remark with respect to the waiters drawn for in the latter and who were not comprehended in the former.

Lieut. Col. Howard's defence respecting reports, is not entirely satisfactory, as they ought to have been accompanied with the necessary remarks without which they were incorrect.

He is released from his arrest.

The General Court Martial of the line whereof Colonel Humpton is President is dissolved.

*To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, Morris-town, March 22, 1780.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 7th. of this Instt. did not come to my hand before 9 o'clock last Night. It was accompanied by such a multitude of other letters (many of which required immediate attention) that it is not in my power, by General Greene, who sets out for Philadelphia in the morning, to give it such a perfect answer and approbation as I could wish; nor can I, on the other hand, consent to his departure without acknowledging of it, and thanking you for the trouble you have taken.

Our affairs seem to be urging so fast to a stagnation, in every branch, even provisions, that I have not only consented, but advised Genl. Greene, as I shall do the Commissary when he arrives, to repair to Philadelphia and endeavour to know with precision, what is to be depended on in their respective departments.

The new system[31] adopted by Congress for conducting the business of these departments may have originated from two causes, necessity, and choice; the first from inability (for want of money) to proceed any further in the old track. The second from a desire to change the old system on acct. of the Commission, it being thought and I fear with too much reason) exceedingly expensive, and disgustful to the People at large. Under these ideas and impressions, I am embarrassed, and cautious of saying any thing on the subject, further than to give it as my opinion, that whatever System is adopted, it should be made as perfect as the nature of the thing will admit of. That this is not the case in many instances with the present one is obvious, as must appear to you upon a comparative view of the Plan, movements, and wants of an Army. In some instances, if literally adhered to, ruin must follow.

I will embrace the first kind moment I have to write you more fully, in the mean time I pray you to be assured that I am, with every sentiment of the most perfect esteem etc.

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

March 22, 1780.

Dr: Sir: By the Resolution of the 25th. of last month apportioning certain quantities of provision and Forage on the respective States, the places of Deposit are to be assigned by His Excellency. This remains to be done, and as Colo. Blaine is now here the General wishes to avail himself of the present opportunity to fix upon the places, and requests that you will defer your Journey to Philadelphia and call upon him at 9 OClock to morrow morning. I am etc.[32]

[31] What is known as "Specific Supplies." (See *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Feb. 25, 1780.)

[32] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "Rob: H: Harrison. Secy." The same letter was sent to Cols. Clement Biddle and Ephraim Blaine.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ENOCH POOR OR OFFICER COMMANDING AT DANBURY

March 22, 1780.

Dear Sir: The remissness in the transmission of the monthly returns directed by the B[oard] of W[ar] and the inconveniencies which this occasions, makes it necessary for me to desire that particular attention may be had to this matter, and that the returns be constantly and regularly made out and forwarded at the periods directed. I am etc.[33]

To LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 22, 1780.

My Lord: Inclosed you will find an extract of a letter[34] which I received yesterday from Governor Livingston, with twelve Copies of the Act for recruiting the number of Men therein mentioned. You will be pleased, in consequence of the Governor's request, immediately to order as many Officers, as can possibly be spared from the Jersey line, to go upon the recruiting service, selecting such as are best acquainted with that duty, and who are supposed to have influence in the respective Counties. The Words of the Act are confined to "able bodied and effective Men" but I would wish your Lordship to draw a set of additional instructions for the recruiting Officers, directing them not to inlist, under the above description, any Deserters from the Enemy; and letting them know, in very explicit

[33] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

[34] The extract is not with the draft, but Livingston's letter, dated March 15, in the *Washington Papers,* says: "I am now to apply to your Excellency in pursuance of an Act of our Legislature for as many officers as your Excellency shall think necessary to be sent into the different counties of this State for the purpose of enlisting and forwarding such Recruits as may enlist in the Service upon the Terms in the said Act expressed." A broadside of the act (March 11) is in the *Washington Papers.*

terms, that the Recruits will, upon their arrival at Camp, be inspected by the Inspector General or one of the sub Inspectors, and, if they shall be found ruptured, or any other ways unsound, too old or too young for the service, or in any manner unqualified for soldiers, that they shall be accountable, notwithstanding they may have been passed by the County Muster Masters appointed by the Act. I think this caution necessary, because it would not be a difficult matter to impose an improper Man upon a Gentleman in the Country, not well acquainted with or not very attentive to military matters.

You will be pleased further to direct the Officers to send forward their Recruits to Camp in squads of five or six, as they obtain them. For which purpose, each Officer should take with him a non Commd. Officer and one or two trusty Men to perform that duty; well dressed and well looking Men should be selected. Your Lordship will observe, by the Act, that a Bounty of one thousand dollars is to be paid to each Recruit inlisting for the War exclusive of *Continental Bounty* and *Emoluments,* but that there may be no misconception or deception by the Officers or on the part of the Men, you are clearly to express, in the additional recruiting instructions, that the Continental Bounty and Emoluments only extend to Cloathing, Land, and such other benefits as may be hereafter allowed to soldiers serving during the War. In short, that one thousand Dollars is the whole Bounty in money which they are to expect. And the Officer is to be informed that the two hundred dollars Bounty allowed to him for each Recruit is to include, and to be considered by him as a compensation for his trouble and expense.

Officers of Militia are, under the Act, allowed to recruit Men, and it is therefore necessary that they should be apprised of the Bounty in Money. The best way, in my opinion, for communicating this, is, for the Continental Officers, upon their arrival in

the several Counties, to shew their instructions[35] to the County Muster Masters, and County pay Masters, and request them to communicate the substance of them to the Officers of the Militia.

I shall be obliged by your Lordship's favoring me with a Copy of the instructions which you deliver to the Officers, that I may file them with my papers. I am &c.[36] [N. H. Y. S.]

To COLONEL OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS

March 22, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I have communicated Your Note to His Excellency. The General thinks that Mr. Randall[37] cannot with propriety be tried by a Court Martial of the State line, as the matter for which he is arrested, implies that there may be a dispute among the Officers. Indeed He knows that there is a disagreement among them upon occasion. I am &c.[38]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Thursday, March 23, 1780.

Parole Equanimity. Countersigns Fame, Favor.

A Subaltern officer from General Hand's brigade is to be sent to Pluckemin tomorrow to superintend the Hospital there in place of Lieutenant Leonard.[39]

By a General Court Martial of the line held by order of His Excellency the Commander in Chief the 23rd. day of February last, Colonel Humpton President:

[35] A copy of Stirling's recruiting instructions, dated March 23, is in the *Washington Papers*.

[36] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[37] John Randall. He was State clothier of Maryland and had been arrested by Colonel Gunby for a partial distribution of clothing, with the consequent stoppage of that important business.

[38] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "Rob: H: Harrison."

[39] Lieut. Nathaniel Leonard, of the Third New Jersey Regiment. He was made captain-lieutenant in March, 1780; transferred to the Second New Jersey Regiment in January, 1781; appointed captain in September, 1781; served to April, 1783.

Major James Moore[40] of the 1st. Pennsylvania regiment was tried on the following charges:

First. "Unofficerlike behaviour, in leaving camp for upwards of twenty days, when he had only leave of absence for two or three days, which has a tendency to subvert good order and military discipline."

Second. "Ungentlemanlike behaviour in promising to return to camp before General Irvine was relieved, and not acting agreeable to his promise."

Third. "Breaking his arrest."

Fourth. "Speaking in a very dishonorable and disrespectful manner of Congress."

Fifth. "Speaking in a very dishonorable and disrespectful manner of the Commander in Chief and Generals of our army," and plead not guilty.

The Court having considered the 1st. charge against Major Moore and the evidence, are of opinion that Majr. Moore had leave of absence from camp for two or three days; that he stayed away from camp much longer, and that his conduct in that instance is unjustifiable, unofficerlike and has a tendency to subvert good order and military discipline, and a breach of article 5th. section 18th. of the rules and articles of war: They are of opinion that Majr. Moore is guilty of the second charge exhibited against him which they consider a breach of article 5th., section 18th, of the Rules and Articles of War. The Court do acquit Majr. Moore of the 3rd. charge exhibited against him.

The Court having fully consider'd the 4th. charge against Major Moore are of opinion that in a conversation that took place at West Point last fall between Colo. Chambers[41] and Majr. Moore, Major Moore expressed himself in a dishonor-

[40] He was transferred to the Second Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1783, and served to November, 1783.

[41] Col. James Chambers, of the First Pennsylvania Regiment. He had been wounded at Brandywine in September, 1777, and retired in January, 1781.

able and disrespectful manner of the conduct of Congress, but as his expressions do not affect their authority, they consider his conduct in this instance as a breach of Article 5th, section 18th. of the rules and articles of War.

The Court do fully and clearly acquit Major Moore of the last charge exhibited against him.

The Court do sentence Major Moore to be reprimanded in general orders.

The General is happy in the acquittal of Major Moore on the 3rd. and 5th. charges exhibited against him, and particularly so in his acquittal on the last of them, which he is sorry was ever made a matter of public discussion. He wishes that the evidence offered in the course of the trial would have justified the Court in a similar determination as to the others; but Major Moore's conduct, with respect to the leave of absence he obtained and the manner of using it, also on the subject comprehended in the 4th. article of charge, severally appears to have been extremely reprehensible. He is releas'd from his Arrest.

By a General Court Martial of the line held by order of His Excellency the Commander in Chief the 9th. day of March 1780, Colonel Humpton President.

Lieutenant Colonel Robinson[42] of the 1st. Pennsylvania regiment charged with, "Unofficerlike behavior in leaving camp for upwards of twenty days when he had only leave of absence for two or three days, which has a tendency to subvert good order and military discipline," was tried and plead not guilty.

The Court having considered the charge against Lieutt. Colonel Robinson and evidence are of opinion, That Lieutt. Colonel

[42] Lieut. Col. Thomas Robinson, of the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment. He had been wounded at Brandywine in September, 1777; transferred to the Second Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1783; made colonel in September, 1783; served to November, 1783.

Robinson had leave of absence from camp for a few days and that he staid away much longer than he was authorized to do by the leave of absence that he obtained, which conduct they consider unofficerlike and having a tendency to subvert good order and military discipline, and a breach of article 5th; section 18th. of the rules and Articles of War and do sentence him to be reprimanded in General orders.

It appears to the General that Lieut. Col. Robinson exceeded the indulgence of absence granted him by Colonel Chambers even according to the extent of it as interpreted by Major Moore, who obtained it for him, and that his conduct was justly censurable. He is released from Arrest.

By a General Court Martial of the line held by order of His Excellency the Commander in Chief the 13th. day of March, Colonel Humpton President, Lieutenant Colonel Hay[43] charged with, "Granting an illegal permit to John Van Winkle, James Collard, Elijah Crain and Thomas Laffron with two sleighs and horses to pass to Bergen Town and return with two ladies unmolested; and for insulting Ensign Rogers[44] in the execution of his duty," was tried and plead not guilty.

The Court having considered the charges exhibited against Lieutenant Colonel Hay and the evidence are of opinion, That he granted an illegal permit, as charged, which they consider a breach of Article 5th. Section 18th. of the Rules and Articles of War. They are of opinion the part of the charge of insulting Ensign Rogers in the execution of his duty is not supported.

They do sentence Lieutenant Colonel Hay to be reprimanded in general orders.

[43] Lieut. Col. Samuel Hay, of the Tenth Pennsylvania Regiment. He had been wounded at Stony Point in July, 1779, and retired in January, 1781.

[44] Ensign John Rogers, of the Second Rhode Island Regiment He was wounded at Connecticut Farms, N. J., in June, 1780; appointed lieutenant in February, 1781; retained in Olney's Rhode Island battalion in May, 1781; served to November, 1783.

The General approves the sentence, Lieut. Col. Hay not having the command on the lines in the quarter where he was, had no right to grant the permit he did; as Bergen town was out of our lines and within, or very contiguous to, those of the enemy; At the same time the General is perfectly satisfied that in doing it he was actuated merely by humane and benevolent motives to facilitate the return home of two ladies on their way from New-York, where they had been permitted to go, and who it appears required assistance. He is released from arrest.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, March 23, 1780.

Sir: I have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Favors of the 14th and 19th Instant; the latter covering the latest accounts you had received from the Southward.

I have just received authentic advice from the Enemy, by which their whole Army under General Clinton was said to be at James Island the 4th of this month and about to take possession of Stono-ferry.[45] The account comes from Sir Henry's Head Quarters and acknowledges the loss of all their Cavalry; of the Defiance a 64 Gun Ship, which foundered at Sea; of Three Transports, the Men of which and of the Sixty four are pretended to have been saved, and of one transport with Hessian Troops, of which no account had been received.

This intelligence comes to me, through a channel which makes me wish there may not be an Official publication, though it may be otherwise mentioned without reserve.

A variety of recent accounts from the Enemy at New York indicate an intended movement of some kind or other. They generally point to this Army or to some post in the Jerseys.

[45] South Carolina.

The day appointed for Fasting, humiliation and prayer will be observed by the Army, agreeable to the proclamation.[46]

In my Letter of the 17th I communicated to Congress a State of our provision and our prospect of supplies. Our distress for Bread has actually commenced and for any thing I can see, it is likely to encrease. I have the Honor etc.[47]

To MAJOR NICHOLAS FISH

Head Quarters, March 23, 1780.

Sir: I recd. your favr. of yesterday. I find as I supposed, that necessity was the sole cause of the additional and unusual trouble given the Brigade Majors. The orderly office is undoubtedly the proper place for Issuing Genl Orders and that to be done by the Adjt Genl But this from the immensity of business on his hands, and having only one assistant rendered it impossible for him or that assistant to attend at all times, and in consequence of it, the present mode of distributing the orders was thought of. It is to be wished under these circumstances that yourself and the other Gentn. in whose behalf you made the representation, would cheerfully continue your aid to Col Williams, until the arrival of Col Scammell who is daily expected with both Capt Gilmer[48] and Capt Dexter,[49] when the business of his Office will go on in its regular channel. I am &c.[50]

[46] The resolve of Congress, appointing April 26 as the day, was passed on March 11, and a manuscript signed by Saml. Huntington, President of Congress, and dated Mar. 11, 1780, is in the *Washington Papers*.

[47] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

[48] Capt Nicholas Gilman, of the Third New Hampshire Regiment. He was assistant adjutant general from January, 1778, to January, 1781; transferred to the First New Hampshire Regiment in January, 1781; served to close of the war.

[49] Capt. John Singer Dexter, of the First Rhode Island Regiment. He was made assistant adjutant general from May, 1779, to May, 1781; retained in Olney's Rhode Island battalion in May, 1781; appointed major in August, 1781; served to November, 1783.

[50] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "R. K. M[eade] A. D. C."

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Friday, March 24, 1780.

Parole Felicity. Countersigns Glory, Gordon.

The officer commanding on the Lines is directed in case of any sudden and serious movement of the enemy in that quarter to cause the Alarm Gun on the heights above Springfield to be fired; This is to be answered by the Alarm Guns in camp upon which the brigades are to form, on their respective parades and wait orders. As it may happen that the Alarm Gun above Springfield may be heard by some of the camp guards whose situation may render them more accessible to the sound, and not by the party with the Alarm Guns in camp, the officers commanding those guards will send immediate information thereof by a trusty serjeant to the officer stationed at the guns.

To COLONEL FRANCIS JOHNSTON

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 24, 1780.

Dr Sir: His Excellency is consenting to your sending Lt. Armstrong[51] after the deserters to Fish kill should you think the object worth the expence; but wishes at the same time in order to avoid further expence on this head that you would take proper measures before his setting out to inform yourself whether there may not be deserters from the rest of the line at or near the same place. You will be pleased to be particular in this and to instruct him accordingly, that they may be taken up. I am etc.[52]

[51] Lieut. John Armstrong, of the Third Pennsylvania Regiment. He served to the close of the war; was appointed to ensign, First United States Infantry, in August, 1784; captain in September, 1790; in First Sub-Legion in September, 1792; major in September, 1792; resigned in March, 1783.

On March 24 Washington wrote brief notes to Lieut. Col. Jeremiah Gilman and Capt. Amos Emerson, of the First New Hampshire Regiment, accepting their resignations.

[52] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "James McHenry."

To BARON DE KALB

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 25, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I have to acknowledge your favor of yesterday, written at half past 11 at Night.

Whatever may be the real object of the enemy, I make no doubt but your vigilance and precautions, should their operations be directed against you, or this way, will obviate any misfortune which they might intend. As an alarm can be conveyed to this ground, in the shortest space of time, by the firing of the alarm State cannon I wish you to take such measures for this purpose as you may judge proper.

It is mentioned in the information that horse vessels were fitted up. I should be pleased to have it ascertained, whether they are of such a kind as may be employed in a voyage, or for the transportation of horse to a distant part of the Continent. I would also like to know what number of boats appear to be a constructing, and what exertions are used to complete them. It is not improbable but that both horse and boats are much wanted for the Southward. I am etc.[53]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 25, 1780.

Gentlemen: I have been honored with your favors of the 10th: 15th: 17th: and 20th: Instants. The Resolve of Congress empowering the Board to order General Courts Martial occasionally had never been transmitted to me, to which account I hope they will place my former doubts upon the propriety of the measure. There is an error in dating the Copy of the Resolve with which you were pleased to furnish me, it now stands

[53] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

17th April 1780; I apprehend it was passed in 1778 or 1779.[54] No doubt now remaining of the regular constitution of the Court, and finding that the objection I formerly made does not invalidate the sentence against Capt Lieut Parke,[55] I have confirmed it. I have likewise confirmed the sentence against Lieut. Wright[56] and shall direct the Adjt. General to furnish the Board with a transcript from General Orders respecting the cases of both Wright and Parke.

I shall direct the Quarter Master General to provide such Articles of sadlery for the Dragoons as circumstances will admit, but from his late representations to me on the score of Money, I fear he will find himself embarrassed exceedingly not only in regard to the supply of those Articles, but of all others relative to his department. I shall take all possible care that the Officers of Cavalry do not draw for more than the necessary quantity of accoutrements. When we compare their present deficiencies with their supplies last year, I do not doubt but something may be placed to the account of neglect, but I can assure the Board that so indifferent is the quality of almost every Article in the manufacture of leather, with which the Army is furnished, that the service of a Campaign is the utmost that can be expected. I most sincerely hope that we shall not be disappointed in our supplies from Europe; I speak more particularly of Cloathing, of which our Magazines are in a manner exhausted, as the Returns which I shall have occasion to transmit in a few days will shew.

Inclosed you will find Copies of my orders to the Commanding Officers of Horse in the Years 1778 and 1779 specifying the number of Horses allowed to be kept at public expence by the Officers of different Ranks. If any of them have

[54] See *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Apr. 17, 1778.
[55] Capt.-Lieut. Theophilus Parke, of Flower's Artillery Artificer regiment.
[56] Lieut Anthony Wright, of Flower's Artillery Artificer regiment.

exceeded the stipulated number, it has never come to my knowledge.

By the Copies of the letters from Governors Reed and Lee and from Mr. Hollingsworth[57] I am convinced the Board have not been wanting in their exertions to procure a supply of provisions, of which, I wish we had more favorable prospects, than are held up by the Commy. General, or which appear in any other quarter. The Commy. General who has just returned from the Eastward has gone forward to Philada. and will himself represent the difficulties under which the department at present labours. 'Till matters get in somewhat better train, I shall confide in a continuance of your endeavours to hasten the progress of the supplies which have been procured to the southward as I can assure you the Army is now upon a most scanty allowance, and is seldom, at the expiration of one day, certain of a morsel of bread for the next. I have the honor etc.[58]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 25, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I have to acknowledge two favors from your Excellency, both of the 10th of this month.

I flatter myself that the measures of the Assembly for recruiting the quota of troops, and bringing them into the field, will fully answer your Excellency's expectations. I am persuaded that for such an essential purpose, nothing will be left undone.

That part of your Excellency's letter which relates to the obstructions that oppose both the raising and purchasing of Cattle is very interesting. You are not unacquainted with our difficulties heretofore, to keep the army together, and at the same

[57] Col. Henry Hollingsworth. He was superintendent of flour magazines in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland.

[58] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

time preserve it from starving. We are still in the most dependent and precarious situation in this respect. I flatter myself, however, that the late system of finance adopted by Congress, by giving the old money a fixt value, and providing the exchequer with new, which is to have the same consideration as specie, will obviate those embarrassments and difficulties with which we have struggled.

This and the measures recommended by Congress to furnish the army with supplies, assisted by the exertions of the respective States, I trust will have a salutary operation, and give to our affairs in general a more agreeable countenance.

I am happy in the opinion, that there is no system which has the public good for its object, but will receive your utmost protection, and be forwarded by every means in your Excellency's power. I have the honor etc.[59]

*To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Morris-town, March 26, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I have, by this conveyance, written to Congress on the defects of the new system for supplyg. the army.

I shall thank you for the News and politic's of the Town. particularly on the subject of finance (wch. I think evy. one ought to support) and the prevailing sentiment respecting our Southern Affairs. The currt. opinion of sensible men, on the propriety and practicability of affording further succour to Genl. Lincoln from this army, under the present circumstances of it, and other matters, is what I wish much to learn; the situation of our affairs in South Carola. impresses me with many fears on acct. of Charles town and with deep concern

[59] In the writing of James McHenry. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

at the effect which the loss of it may produce on the minds of People in that quarter.

It is my earnest wish that to the Sentiments of others you would add those of your own, in full and explicit terms. I shall, I believe, ask this of the other Genl. Officers.

Mrs. Green gave us the pleasure of her company yesterday and is well. I am &c.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 26, 1780.

Sir: I beg leave to inform Congress, that from the importance of the subject and the difficulties we have experienced in our provision and Forage supplies, I have been induced in the course of a few days past, with the assistance of the Quarter Master General and the Commissary Generals of Provision and forage to make an Estimate of the quantity of each of these Articles, which would be necessary under our circumstances for Thirty Thousand Men for Twelve Months. From a view of our past expenditures and supposing our means of transportation will be nearly the same they have been, it appears that Two Hundred Thousand Barrels of flour and Forty Millions of pounds of meat would be requisite to be provided, and a much greater quantity of Hay and Grain forage, as will be seen by the inclosed Estimate,[60] than Congress have been pleased to require of the States, by their Resolution of the 25th of last month. I should have deemed a communication essential in the case of any specific requisition, which should have seemed too short in the supplies required, lest the States, after providing for the quantities called for, might have permitted

[60] This estimate is filed with Washington's letter in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*. It shows a deficiency in the amount of forage requisitioned of 11,615 tons of hay and 756,273 bushels of grain.

the remaining Surplus of provisions to be exported, and from thence placed the subsistence of the Army on too precarious a footing. In the present one however, the communication appears the more essential, as, besides the inconvenience suggested and admitting it should never happen, the Act makes no certain provision for obtaining any Supplies beyond those required by it, although they should prove deficient. With all deference I would take the liberty to observe, that it appears to me, we cannot be too secure and guarded with respect to our supplies of provision and forage, as a failure in either would involve the most distressing consequences, and therefore that our requisitions should be full and ample in the first instance; and also, even where this is the case, that there should reside a power either in the Commissary General or in one or more persons appointed by Congress or in the Superintending agents to be nominated by the States to provide for contingencies. Upon the present occasion this power seems to me indispensable, as the Supplies requested by the Resolution of the 25th of Feby appear to be so materially deficient, and it may be absolutely necessary in many cases, both for the sake of public economy and because the Articles of supply may not be procurable elsewhere or at least not in due time, or without great difficulty, to obtain large quantities of provision and Forage in a State, after it has actually furnished the quota required of it in the General Assessment. If this should not be allowable the public service may and will certainly suffer, and yet under the present arrangement of the business in this State, which, as I am informed, has undertaken to furnish its quota agreeable to the requisition, there is no provision which authorizes it's own Superintendent or Contractors to go farther than this, while the Law prohibits the Staff in the Continental line from purchasing Any Article of provision or

Forage on public account, under a severe penalty; which System may be adopted by Others. With respect to the Article of Hay for instance, the quantity heretofore purchased in this State, and which was essential for the Army, has been more than double what is apportioned on it by the Act of the 25th Feby. and should circumstances make as great an Expenditure material in future, and the State should be capable of affording a supply, the public interest would certainly require that it should be procured, in preference to drawing it from another, supposing it could be done. The propriety, and indeed necessity of the measure holds equally with respect to Other Articles and to every State. I do not mean to convey an Idea, that it is not necessary in our present circumstances to make specific requisitions of supplies in these instances, of the states; or that a System could be, or should be formed on any principle of apportionment to oblige any One to furnish in this way, more than it's proportion; but only that there should be a power somewhere, through which the public may avail themselves of the resources occasionally, of which each State may be capable. And indeed, as it may be unnecessary and impossible in many instances to use the supplies apportioned on particular States, from the local operations of the Army, it seems to me, that there should be occasional sales of the Articles laid up, particularly of Forage, whenever it shall appear from the circumstances of the War that they will not be wanted.

To the observations I have taken the liberty to make, I would beg leave to add, from the frequent occasions we are under, of bringing Supplies from the Eastward, it appears essential that there should be a quantity of Hay provided in the Massachusetts State, probably about Two thousand Five Hundred Tons and from Two Thousand five hundred to Three Thousand Tons in Connecticut, as without a supply the Cattle employed

in the business of transportation, will be supported with more difficulty and more expensively. The quantity called for from Rhode Island, from the present face of Military Affairs, it seems probable will greatly exceed the demand we shall have for it.

The Commissary General is of opinion, that it will be necessary for Nine Thousand Bushels of Salt to be deposited in Connecticut, more than is mentioned in the Resolution, as it is from thence that we must receive a great proportion of the Salt provision he lays up; and likewise that he apprehends the quantity to be provided in the Southern States, to be short by Five thousand Bushels. As the places from whence we draw supplies must depend on the abilities of the Individual States to afford them and on the local situation of the Army, it is difficult to frame any fixed and certain System in the case, and it will be found necessary according to these, I am persuaded in many instances, almost wholly to govern our conduct. For should we operate on the North River we must receive from the States of New York and Connecticut, infinitely greater quantities of Forage and flour than what are contained in the Act of requisition. I will only take the liberty to subjoin on this occasion, that the Quarter Master General, Commissary General and Forage Master General are now at Philadelphia on business of their respective departments, and that they will be able, if it should be the pleasure of Congress, to satisfy them in many particulars with respect to the subjects of my Letters, and which cannot be so well detailed.

The Estimate above is made on a number, which greatly exceeds that of our arm bearing Men; but it is considerably short of the Levies required by Congress including the force we at present have, and when we take into view the Officers, Staff, Artificers, the numerous dependents on and connected with the Army, the Contingent and occasional Drafts of Militia we may stand in need of, it will be found to be sufficiently low.

There is another matter to which I would solicit the attention of Congress and could wish they would recommend it to the consideration of the States. It is their providing by some means, that Green pasturage may be had for the Horses of the Army on Marches and in Camp, before the season of dry Hay comes on, in some easy and summary way. The necessity of pasturage is evident and yet we have found great difficulty in obtaining it, and without the States take the matter up and make provision for it, I fear the service will suffer greatly, and that there will be besides constant complaints and Law-suits against the Officers in the Staff and other line of the Army. I have the Honor etc.[61]

[61] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The letter was read in Congress on March 29 and referred to Roger Sherman, Thomas Burke, and James Searle.

Filed with the draft of this letter to Congress, in the *Washington Papers,* is the following memorandum, evidently dictated to Tench Tilghman:

"1. The Quantity of Flour required is by the Estimate of the Commy. Genl. deficient near 100,000 Bbls.

"2. Massachusetts furnishes no Hay or Grain Forage; there is necessarily a great consumption in that state, at least 2500 tons of Hay and 30,000 Bushels of Grain.

"3. Salt of Connecticut appears very deficient. They ought to furnish 10,000 Bushs:

"4. Hay of Connecticut deficient 2500 or 3000 ton. and they ought to furnish 60,000 Bushels of Grain and 10,000 Barrels of flour.

"5. New York considering the probability of the Army laying in that state should furnish 100,000 Bushs: short forage and 3500 tons of Hay and 28,000 (28,969) B. Flour.

"6. New Jersey for the foregoing reason should furnish 25000 Bbls flour; 7500 tons of Hay and 100,000 Bushs: short forage.

"7. Pennsylvania by the estimate furnishes no Beef. she ought to give 5000 Cattle and an addition of 20,000 Bbls flour. She ought also to give 5000 tons of Hay and 300,000 Bushs. short forage, besides wintering a number of Horses.

"8. Delaware state can furnish 9,000 Bbls. flour, 1000 Head Beef Cattle, and 2500 tons of Hay and 60,000 Bushs: Grain forage.

"9. Maryland can furnish 40,000 Bbls flour, 150,000 Bushels Grain forage, and 5000 Bushs: salt.

"10. The Frontier of Virginia ought to furnish 10,000 Barrels flour for the use of the Western posts, 400,000 Bushs: Grain forage.

"11. Considering the probability of the removal of the War to the southward, North Carolina should be called on for 150,000 Bushs: Grain forage.

"12. The states of North and south Carolina being very temperate in climate the Cattle and Horses can be substituted in green forage the greatest part of the Year.

"General Remark. There is no provision made for Green forage in any of the states. The Cattle and Horses during all the moving part of the Campaign must subsist on this food, it being impossible to carry dry forage, except in small Quantities, with the Army. The Continental and state Agents in each state should be the same

To DANIEL PUTNAM[62]

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 26, 1780.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 7th. of this month. It gives me great pleasure to learn that your father the General is getting better, and that there are such flattering hopes of his perfect recovery. I beg that he will receive my best wishes for his health.

As you are unwilling to remain inactive or in your present situation in the army and request leave to resign, you will be pleased to consider this as my approbation of your request. I am &c.[63]

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

March 26, 1780.

Sir: The situation of affairs to the Southward makes it serious question whether any further succours ought to go from this army. There are many obstacles to the measure, perhaps insurmountable ones, but in considering it, it is essential to ascertain how far it may be practicable to transport the troops. They must of necessity go a great part of the way by land. I am therefore to request you will without delay inform me explicitly of the means you have in your department for this purpose. I shall also be obliged to you to consult the Commissary and let me know how he would be prepared for such an event.

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both for œconomy and to accommodate the Business to the Nature of the service. The Agents in the respective states to be authorised to make such further provision in their respective departments as the service may require.

"It should be very explicitly stipulated that the Commy. General should call upon the States for their live Cattle at such times and in such quantities as the service may require. Otherwise the states may take upon themselves to send in their Cattle at such times as best suit themselves, which would occasion scarcity at one time and a superabundance at another."

[62] Major and aide to Maj. Gen. Israel Putnam.

[63] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

Suppose in your calculations that the detachment would consist of two thousand men.

There is another point which I have frequently mentioned to you in conversation, concerning which it is indispensable I should have the clearest, fullest and most precise information; I mean our prospects for moving the army this campaign. The season for operations is advancing fast. The movements of the enemy may soon make it necessary to put our whole force in motion. I wish to know therefore what provision is made and making of covering in camp equipage and the means of transportation; and how soon we may expect to be in a condition to take the field.

I request your answer to these inquiries will be as expeditious and precise as possible; but if a recurrence to your papers in camp, should be necessary to enable you to give an answer to the latter you will of course defer it 'till this can take place; but in the mean time you will let me hear from you on the subject of the detachment to the Southward. With great esteem etc.[64]

To ROYAL FLINT

March 26, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I am much obliged to you for the interest which you still take in our supplies, as expressed in your favor of the 10th instant; and for your intentions to forward this business by a person representation on the subject to the Governor and Council.[65]

I cannot doubt but that, whether a private citizen, or one acting in a public capacity, the good of your country will always be your principal object. With much regard, I am etc.[66]

[64] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.
[65] Of Connecticut.
[66] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

To JOHN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 26, 1780.

Dr. Sir: In answer to your letter of the 10th of this month, I have inclosed you a certificate expressing in general terms my sense of your services. For want of a knowledge of the ranks which you may have held at different times, and the periods of your service I could not make it more particular; but if you are desirous of one comprehending these matters and will send me the proper dates &c. I shall make out a certificate agreeably. I am &c.[67]

CIRCULAR TO THE STATES

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 26, 1780.

Sir: You[68] will have received I presume before this, a Transcript of an Act of Congress of the 25th of last month calling on the several States for Specific quantities of provision, Rum and Forage for the Army and directing the Articles of Supplies to be collected and deposited at such places in each of the States, as should be judged most convenient by me. In the case of a defensive war like ours, which depends almost wholly on the movements and operations of the Enemy, it is dificult if not impracticable, to fix on places of Deposit for Stores, which may not be rendered improper by subsequent events, and all we can do upon such occasions, is, to collect them where it shall appear from a comparative view of circumstances, that they will be probably secure and most likely to facilitate the purposes intended. I have considered the point with respect to the supplies required of Your State, and I beg leave to inform You, that it appears to me, they should be deposited at

[67] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry. A draft of the certificate is not found in the *Washington Papers*. (See note 9, p. 167, vol. 5, for Trumbull's service.)

[68] The draft at this point has within brackets "or Your Excellency as the case may be."

the following places and in the proportions set against each respectively. Viz:[69]

Charles Town No. 4	24,000	Gallons of Rum
Portsmouth	11,643	Do
	35,643	

As to the Beef,[70] the time and place of delivery &c the proportion from time to time must of necessity be governed by the occasional requisitions of the Commissary General; which must also be the case with respect to the Salt and it's ultimate places of deposit. I have Honor etc.[71] [N.H.H.S.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Sunday, March 26, 1780.

Parole Hymen. Countersigns Jupiter, Juno.

The regimental surgeons are to send as usual to the Flying Hospital for stores for the sick and are to be punctual in making their weekly returns on mondays agreeable to general orders.

[69] The draft has: "[Vide the Inclosed paper fixing the places of Deposit in each State.]" This paper is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Mar. 25, 1780. It is a tabular statement, headed: "Places for depositing Stores and the proportion of each species to be collected at them respectively"; to which the following "Remarks" are appended: "The Hay required of Rhode Island to be collected on the requisitions of the Q Master General; who will make them from time to time as the probability of its being wanted shall seem to make it necessary." This paragraph was added to the circular sent to Gov. William Greene, of Rhode Island. In the tabular statement, opposite North Carolina, is the note: "The places of deposit for the stores to be furnished by it, must be fixed by the Governor of the State and the Commanding Officer in the Southern department." Opposite South Carolina is: "The places of deposit for the Stores to be furnished by it, must be fixed by the Commanding Officer in the Southern department, who will consult the Govr. of the State upon the occasion."

[70] The draft has "supplics of Beef."

[71] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The text is from the letter sent to President Meshech Weare, of New Hampshire. The circular was sent also to Jeremiah Powell, president of the Massachusetts Council; to Govs. William Greene, Rhode Island; Jonathan Trumbull, Connecticut; George Clinton, New York; William Livingston, New Jersey; Thomas Sim Lee, Maryland; Thomas Jefferson, Virginia; Presidents Joseph Reed, Pennsylvania, and Caesar Rodney, Delaware. (See the letters to President Reed (April 12) and to Govs. Richard Caswell and John Rutledge, of North and South Carolina, respectively.) In the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress are photostats of the letters sent to Meshech Weare, Joseph Reed, Thomas Sim Lee, and Jonathan Trumbull—all in the writing of Harrison.

By a General Court Martial held in the City of Philadelphia by order of the Honorable Board of War, Jany. 24th. 80, Colonel White,[72] President, Captain Lieutenant Theophilus Parke was tried for, "Defrauding his men of their pay and bounty," and plead not guilty.

The Court were of opinion that Captn. Lieut. Theophilus Parke has not only been guilty of defrauding his men of their pay and bounty, but of repeated forgeries in signing several of the names of the evidences soldiers in his company for their pay and bounty, without their knowledge or consent.

The Court unanimously found Captain Lieutenant Parke guilty not only of fraud but of repeated Forgeries and sentenced him to be cashiered with infamy, by having his sword broke over his head on the public parade in the front of the regiment to which he belongs by the Adjutant of the said regiment, and it is the opinion of the court from the scandalous, infamous and villainous conduct of Captn. Lieutt. Parke that he is unworthy of ever holding any post civil or military in the United States, Agreeable to the 22nd. article, section 14th. of the Articles of War, the charge and sentence be published in the News Papers of the State of Pennsylvania. The charge of fraud being fully proved against Captn. Lieutt. Parke, the General confirms the sentence and directs it's execution.

By a General Court Martial held by order of the honorable the Board of War at Philadelphia the ninth day of March instant, Lieutt. Colonel Williams[73] President, Lieutenant Anthony Wright of Colonel Flower's regiment of Artillery Artificers was tried on the following charges (viz)

1st. "For runing in debt to private matrosses, and,

2nd. For ungentlemanlike behavior in drinking at public houses with soldiers at their expence.

[72] Col. Anthony Walton White, of the First Continental Dragoons.
[73] Lieut. Col. William Williams, of the Third Pennsylvania Regiment.

3rd. For going to a dance at night at the soldiers houses without their invitation and playing cards the same night with private soldiers.

4th For beating and abusing two Matrosses in a barbarous and inhuman manner when under arms on the fifth instant.

5th. For borrowing a pair of shoes from a Matross and not returning them or giving him any satisfaction," and plead "Not guilty."

The Court after duly considering the evidence for and against the Prisoner with his defence do acquit him of the 1st. and 4th. charges, but find him guilty of the 2nd., 3rd and 5th. charges being a breach of the 21st. article of the 14th. section of the Articles of War and do sentence him to be dismissed the service. The Commander in Chief approves the sentence.

——— Cradick[74] and Thomas Streehan[75] of Col. Lamb's regimt. Roger Taylor, ——— Burt,[76] Francis Pritchard, John Parcels, Alexr. Ross of Col. Crane's regiment and Samuel Gayke[77] of Lieutt. Colo. Willet's regiment are to be sent immediately to the Quarter Master General's to assist in making tents.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Monday, March 27, 1780.

Parole Intrepidity. Countersigns Industry, Integrity.

A Surgeon from the 1st. Pennsylvania brigade is to go immediately to take charge of the wounded at Paramus; he will call on Doctor Cochran for his instructions.

The General directs that officers and soldiers remain in camp and hold themselves ready for a sudden movement.

[74] The name appears as William Cruduck on a muster roll of September, 1778.
[75] The name appears as Thomas Shahaan on a muster roll of September, 1778.
[76] The name appears as William Birt on a muster roll of September, 1778.
[77] Gake.

The men who want Arms to be immediately supplied and the whole to be completed with ammunition.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, March 27, 1780.

Sir: Notwithstanding the occasion we should have for your services in this quarter should any active operations commence, the critical situation of Charles Town and the importance of that place, induce me to wish you were there. I am doubtful whether you can arrive in time; but I have submitted the matter to Congress to determine according to the advices they have received. The letter to them is inclosed, which after reading you will be pleased to deliver to the President. Should you go to the Southward, I request you will favour me with a detail as frequently as circumstances will permit of the military operations in that quarter; and I entreat you to believe that I shall at all times take great pleasure in hearing of your success and glory. I have the honor etc.[78]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 27, 1780.

Sir: In the present situation of Southern affairs much will no doubt depend on the having an able Engineer in that Quarter. I have a very good opinion of the Gentleman now there in this line, but the confidence I have in General Du Portails abilities makes me think his presence would be of the greatest utility. Though we may sensibly feel the want of him here should any active operation commence; yet upon the whole I should be

[78] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

willing to spare him were there a probability of his arriving in time. I have no doubt from the season and from every other circumstance that General Clinton will press the enterprise with all the vigor and dispatch in his power; but the loss of his horses may necessarily retard his progress. I beg leave to submit to Congress the propriety of sending General Duportail, which they will be best able to determine from the general complexion of the advices they have received. As he is in Philadelphia their orders immediately to him will prevent delay. In case of his going it will be of course necessary to bear his expences and furnish him with the means of expedition, and it were to be wished he may receive his orders as soon as possible. I have the honor etc.[79]

COUNCIL OF WAR[80]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 27, 1780.

The Commander in Chief states to The Council, that by his latest advices from South Carolina Sir Henry Clinton was arrived there with the force under his command and about the beginning of this month was advanced as far as Stono-ferry, having remained more than twenty days nearly in the same position. That the detachment which went with him from New York was estimated at about 6000; that it is unknown, whether he drew any reinforcement from Savannah, or whether the detachment suffered any considerable loss, in the Storms to which it was exposed during the voyage, a circumstance denied by the enemy. That however there is good intelligence of their having lost their cavalry and every reason to believe that the whole or the greatest part of their waggon-horses

[79] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

[80] Those present, in addition to Washington, were Maj. Genls. Arthur St. Clair and Baron de Kalb, and Brig. Genls. James Clinton, William Maxwell, Henry Knox, Edward Hand, and Mordecai Gist.

experienced a like fate, probably many waggons and boats were also lost, which must necessarily be at least a temporary check to their operations. That by late accounts from New York, there is an appearance of additional succours going from that place, though these accounts still require confirmation.

That General Lincoln's forces the beginning of January last consisted of about one thousand infantry and five hundred cavalry comprehending the Regiment in march under Col. Washington, Continental troops, besides the militia of the Town and other militia called for from the Country and expected, since which Brigadier General Hogan had arrived with the North Carolina regiments of about four hundred men; and the Virginia troops under General Woodford about one thousand in number were within three hundred and eighty miles of Charles Town the 11th. instant. That General Lincoln's disposition seems to be to garrison Charles Town with the greatest part of his force, and leave the cavalry with such infantry as may occasionally collect to them to cover the country and harass the enemy's communications.

That the naval force with which the enemy sailed from New York upon the Southern expedition consisted of five sail of the line (one of which has foundered on the passage) one fifty-gun ship two 44s. and a 20, with a few small armed vessels; besides which they may have been joined by the vigilant of 24 heavy cannon and some armed vessels, which were already in that quarter. That Charles-Town harbour was defended by four Continental frigates, two state ships to be armed with heavy cannon and some other armed vessels making in the whole fourteen, exclusive of gallies, *supposed* to be a sufficient security to the harbour.

The Commander in Chief takes occasion to observe, that not withstanding the hopes which seem to be entertained of an

effectual defence much is to be apprehended for the event of the siege, as the loss of Charles Town and its garrison, would probably involve the most calamitous consequences to the whole state of South Carolina, and even perhaps beyond it.

His Excellency further states that our operating force at this post amounts to about 7000 rank and file, thirteen hundred of whom will have completed their term of service the last of May; at the Highlands about 2600 including twelve hundred whose services will expire at the same period and at Danbury about 800, including three hundred of the same description, besides which are two more broken regiments of dragoons and Lee's corps. That not less from the embarrassments in the Quarter Master's and Commissary's departments than from the season it will be impracticable for some time to put the army in motion if it were necessary.

That the enemy's present operating force at New York and its dependencies is estimated at Eleven thousand rank and file, the whole of which by serveral concuring accounts has been said to be some time preparing for a movement.

His Excellency having thus given the Council a general view of affairs as well to the Southward as here requests their opinion in writing with their reasons whether any further force can at this time be spared from the army here to reinforce that in South Carolina, whether it will be adviseable to make such a detachment and to what amount; also in case a detachment should be made what disposition ought to take place of the remaining force.[81]

[81] In the writing of Alexander Hamilton. Several words have been supplied from the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress, where the original is mutilated.

Although Lord Stirling was not present at this council, he submitted an opinion on March 30. All the other generals submitted their opinions on March 29. The decision was unanimous that no detachment could safely be made from the army at Morristown.

To COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 27, 1780.

Sir: I have recd. a letter from the Board of War in which they inform me that they had on the 18th: Feby. given directions to Otis and Henley to provide Uniform Cloathing for your Regt. which I hope they will execute in a short time. They also inform me that they had undertaken to procure Caps, Leather Breeches and Boots for the Cavalry and had directed the Commy. Genl. of Military Stores to make provision of Swords, Pistols and Cartouch Boxes. I have written to Colo. Hubbard to endeavour to procure the necessary quantity of sadlery and when obtained to deliver what is wanting by the respective Regiments to the commanding Officers. Here I must take occasion to enforce a matter which the Board of War have recommended, and which is, to draw no more than the Articles which are indispensably necessary, and no more of such Articles than are really deficient. The scantiness of our stores of every kind and the necessity of retrenching public Expenses by all possible means makes me hope you will pay the strictest attention to this request. I am &c.[82]

To NEHEMIAH HUBBARD[83]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 27, 1780.

Sir: On the 7th: instant, the Quarter Master General laid before me, for my direction, Returns of sundry Accoutrements wanting by Moylans and Sheldons Regiments of Horse, and which had been demanded from you. Not knowing what

[82] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman That part of the above letter which respects clothing was sent also to Col. Elisha Sheldon.

[83] Deputy quartermaster general for Connecticut, at Hartford.

provision might have been made by the Board of War, I did not look upon myself at liberty to give order in the matter, before I had consulted them on the subject. In answer to my letter they inform me that they had provided Caps, Boots and leather Breeches and should direct the Commy. General of Military stores to procure Swords, Pistols and Cartouch Boxes. They desire me to give orders to the Qr. Mr. General to procure, if in his power, the different Articles of sadlery, Portmanteaus, Oil Cloths and such others as come properly within his line. They inform me that they have reason to believe that there is some sadlery ready made at Springfield,[84] which, should there be any there, are to be considered as part of the Quantity called for. You will therefore make inquiry into that matter and after satisfying yourself, proceed as expeditiously as possible in procuring the deficiency. As the Board of War have not sent me back the Returns which I transmitted to them, I must desire you, if you have not retained Copies of them, to apply again to the commanding Officers of the Regiments for them, and to whom you will deliver the several Articles as you obtain them from the Workmen. I am etc.[85]

To BARON VON KNYPHAUSEN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 27, 1780.

Sir: After the breaking up of the Commission[86] at Amboy, Mr. Pintard continued within your lines for the purpose of settling his Accounts with the present Commissary General of prisoners who is shortly going out of Office. He yesterday informed me that previous to his leaving Amboy, a parole had been required of him limiting his stay to the 30th. Inst. a period

[84] Springfield, Mass.
[85] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[86] For exchange of prisoners.

too short to accomplish the purpose above mentioned. I have directed him to remain 'till the Business is finished, but to satisfy his scruples arising from the limitation of his parole, I have thought proper to inform Your Excellency that his continuance is by my direction. At the same time I am persuaded, on considering the matter you will agree with me in opinion, that there was an irregularity in requiring a parole of this nature from a Gentleman acting in a public capacity for us in your lines. Mr. Pintard was sent in by me in January 1777 in character of an Agent for prisoners, and though not formally recognized as such, he was permitted to stay in New York and execute the Office in which he has acted ever since. He cannot therefore be properly subject to a restriction of the kind which has been imposed. I have the honor etc.[87]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 28, 1780.

Sir: I have the Honor to transmit Your Excellency the Extract of a Letter of the 23d Instant, which I received to day from Colo. Vanschaick.[88] This will inform Your Excellency, that the Indians have lately made Two incursions on our Frontiers and taken Five of the Inhabitants of Tryon County and killed one and captured a Guard of Thirteen Militia posted at Skeensborough.

I wish I had no other intelligence of a disagreeable nature to communicate to Your Excellency, but, according to a Letter of the 20th Instant, which just came to hand from the Honourable Mr. Bowen, Deputy Governor of Rhode Island, I am informed, that there has been an engagement between the Spanish Squadron which was off Gibralter and a British fleet, in which the

[87] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[88] The original of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

former suffered very capitally. For Your Excellency's more particular information with respect to this unlucky event, I beg leave to refer you to the Inclosure No. 2, an Extract from Mr. Bowen's Letter, which contains the whole and only intelligence I have received on the subject. It appears by the account that the combat, tho' very unequal on the part of His Catholic Majesty's Squadron, had been maintained by them with great obstinacy and with considerable loss to the Enemy.

Your Excellency's dispatches of the 23d have duly come to hand. I have the Honor etc.

P. S. I have received an account which mentions that there are some Transports fitting and preparing at New York, as if they were to receive Troops. From the measures I have taken, I hope in a day or two to obtain more particular and satisfactory information on the subject.

I inclose your Excellency, Rivington's Papers of the 22 and 25 Instant. By the former You will find General Robertson arrived at New York on the 21st in character of Governor, and that we may conclude nothing extraordinary had happened at the Southward about the 11th of the Month.

There is a point on which I would wish to obtain the sentiments and direction of Congress, as without them, I am like to be under some embarrassment with respect to it. I find that the States of Rhode Island, Connecticut and Jersey, the only three from which I have heard upon the subject of Levies (except New York which has none to raise) have, for making up theirs, adopted the mode of voluntary inlistments for the War, under certain pecuniary bounties; Viz. Rhode Island 300; Connecticut 300; Jersey 1000 Dollars, "in addition to and exclusive of the Continental bounty" as it is variously expressed; and the last Two have requested Officers to be sent from the Army on the recruiting service. I wish to know whether there is any

Continental pecuniary bounty in *such cases* and what it is (for I would beg leave to observe, that I shall continue to give a bounty of Two Hundred Dollars to the Old Soldiers who will reengage for the War previous to or on the expiration of their Inlistments unless I am directed to the contrary, if any can be prevailed on to do it for this sum only); And if there is a Continental bounty, whether it is to be exclusive of what the States give and to be advanced by Warrants on the Military Chest; or inclusive, and to be passed to the Credit of the States respectively for whose quota the Recruits are inlisted, as was directed on a similar occasion by the Act of the 9 of March last. It will also be necessary for Congress to determine, in case a Continental bounty is allowed, whether it is to extend as well to Men whose services will expire in the course of a few months, who may be reinlisted by the States by Officers sent to the Army for the purpose, which is part of the System meant to be pursued by some, as well as to those who may be engaged in the State. I also wish to know, whether the Officers who may go on the Recruiting service in consequence of requisitions from the dif ferent Governments, are to have a bounty and what from the United States; or are to look only to their own States for a provision and allowance in the case. These points appear to me essential to be determined, and I would take the liberty to request that Congress will be pleased to satisfy me with respect to them, as soon as they shall judge it convenient.[89]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 28, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I received your letter of the 2d. informing me of your arrival at Roxbury.

[89] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The letter was read in Congress on April 3 and referred to the Board of War.

It is very essential that every thing in our power, not inconsistent with the establishments of Congress, or the States, should be done that can in any ways facilitate the recruiting service. I am of your opinion, that if clothing could be procured on the spot for such of the State quota as inlist, it would be a circumstance very much in favor of the business. But I would not wish to give any directions on this subject, as I presume every thing proper on the occasion will be done by the State [in consequence of the requisition of Congress].

I have been induced to direct the clothier general to make out an order on Otis & Henley, in favor of Col. Crane, for clothing for such soldiers as he may enlist. But this cannot be extended further, and was only taken up, because the artillery are dependent solely on the Continent for their supplies. I am &c.[90]

[MS. H. S.]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

[March 28, 1780.]

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 8th of this month.

I would observe with respect to the request to station one of the Regiments for the ensuing campaign in the State of Rhode Island, that at this time, it is impossible to give your Excelly. any decisive answer. Whether it will or will not be in our power, or whether it will be necessary, depends so much on the application the enemy may make of their force, the State of our own strength, as opposed to theirs, and other considerations of a contingent nature, that you will perceive nothing certain can be promised on the subject.

I am persuaded of the exertions of your State, and that no means, which it has, will be left untried to forward the views of

[90] In the writing of James McHenry. The phrase in brackets in the draft (which is also in the writing of McHenry) has been supplied by Washington.

Congress in recruiting the army to its full complement, and I would wish your Excellency to believe that whatever application is made of the troops under my command can only have the general good for its object. I have the honor etc.[91]

To MAJOR GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 28, 1780.

[Dr Sir]: I have to acknowledge your favor of the 6th of this month, and that of the 20th. containing a duplicate of the former.

In a letter to the Board of Admiralty of the 15th I communicated my sentiments respecting the subject of your letter. I observed to the Board "with respect to the troops, that, from the detachment lately sent to the Southward, and the great diminution of our force besides, occasioned by the daily expiration of the men's inlistments, it appears to me that none can be spared from the army consistently with prudence or policy. But should the Board finally determine on the proposed enterprise and the troops be essential to its success," I further observed "that under the circumstances of the army I have stated, I should not think myself authorised to send them, without the concurrence and direction of Congress."

This will shew you the footing on which I found myself obliged to place the business. As to the second point, should the enterprise be undertaken, so far as my concurrence may be considered as necessary, I shall have no objection to your going on the command.

With regard to a leave of absence from the army during the insuing summer should it be found inexpedient to go into the proposed interprise and under the representation of your

[91] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

health, you have my permission [tho' it was my wish and expectation to see you in the field] but provided your views extend to a voyage leave for this purpose must be obtained from the Congress, as I have in no instance whatever ventured to grant a furlough to any place not within the United States. I hope you will find the experiments you propose to answer your expectations, and that you may soon experience a situation for actual service.

Let me congratulate you on [the late happy event.] Mrs. Washington joins me in presenting her wishes for Mrs. Arnolds on the occasion. I am &c.[92]

To DOCTOR ISAAC FOSTER

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 28, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I wish I could give you a favorable answer to your letter of the 17th of February on the subject of clothing.

I believe for some time to come, we must content ourselves with the acts of Congress and wait till they may have it in their power to give them a general operation. In this quarter you may be assured that no officers of the line, within my knowledge or recollection, have derived clothing from the public Stores, in consequence of these resolves. Two small parcels of clothing have been distributed to the staff of the army in which the hospital was included, but the apportionment to each individual was so inconsiderable as scarcely to be an object of attention.

When Congress may have it in their power to give their resolves effect, I make no doubt but they will impower their agents with proper authority to deliver clothing agreeably to

[92] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry. The words within brackets are in the writing of Washington.

their resolves; And you may be assured that his Excellency does not consider himself at liberty to take any order in this affair, or I would most willingly forward such as would answer the purpose of your department. I am &c.[93]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 29, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I am pleased to hear by yours of yesterday of your arrival at Springfield. I have long wished and expected it. Governor Trumbull in his letter by you, requests that a number of commissioned and non commissioned officers may be immediately sent to Connecticut to assist in the business of recruiting: he mentions 50 or 60 if they can be spared. From my idea of the State of the several regiments in respect to officers present, that number would nearly include the whole upon the ground. That, none however, of the little time between this and the opening of the campaign may be lost, you will be pleased to inquire forthwith what further number of Captains and Subs and good non-commissioned officers inlisted for the war, can be spared from the division, and let them be directed to proceed to the Governor and take his instructions. I imagine there are many officers yet in Connecticut upon furlough, who may perhaps request to remain there to recruit; but I think they had best be called in and others sent upon that service as they return, because if an officer goes to a part of the Country in which he is acquainted, to recruit, he has an opportunity in some degree of visiting his friends at the same time.

You are probably informed of the encouragements given by the late law to recruiting officers. I would wish you to acquaint

[93] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "James McHenry."

those who incline to go upon that service that I am not authorised to allow any thing seperate from the provision made by the State as the requisition of Congress of the 9th. of February makes none but leaves the mode to the States. I think it necessary that this matter should be clearly understood by the officers previous to their departure, lest they should afterwards complain, that they went out in obedience to orders and were unavoidably drawn into considerable expences in consequence. I am &c.[94]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL PIERRE REGNIER

[March 29, 1780.]

This may certify that Pierre Regnier Esqr. served as a volunteer in the Army of the United States of America from the 11 Novr. 1775 till the 12th of January 1776, when he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel by a particular act of Congress of that date. Col. Regnier has behaved on all occasions with a becoming zeal for the promotion of the service and distinguished himself in the several campaigns as a brave active and intelligence Officer. And is now at his own particular request permitted to retire.[95]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Wednesday, March 29, 1780.

Parole Loquacious. Countersigns Lustre, Lucid.

Lieutenant Col. Ford will take charge of the 2nd. Maryland regiment 'till further orders.

[94] In the writing of James McHenry. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by D. W. Richards, of New York City.

[95] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

The General or other officer of the day is to give the Parole and Countersigns to all guards or cause it to be done by the Brigade Major, that the omissions and mistakes which have happened of late may be avoided in future.

*To JOHN MITCHELL

Head Quarters, Morris-town, March 30, 1780.

Dr Sir: Your Letter of the 25th did not come to my hands till yesterday afternoon.

I will take the Chariot at the price of Two hundred and ten pounds in gold, provided you have examined it yourself with a critical eye or will get some good judge or judges to do it and they shall be of opinion that it is made in the present taste, well fashioned, composed of seasoned wood well put together. and also that it either has, or is to have a proper lining &ca. My reason for being so particular I shall mention; some days ago I was told of an elegant chariot of exquisite workmanship belonging to Captn. Kennedy[96] that was for sale; I got a Gentn. in the neighbourhood to view it, who made so favourable a report, that I sent down to buy it, when upon a second inspection (or the Inspection of a second Gentn.) it was found to be so old fashioned and uncouth that the Gentn. did not incline to take it. I wish you had mentioned the makers name of the one offered you; if it is a common sale Chariot, and the workman does not stand much upon his character it may be of little worth from the slightness of it.

It will not be in my power to insure payment in less time than It would take me to draw the money from my own home in Virginia which by the common chances of conveyance I could not, with certainty fix at less than 8 weeks from the

[96] Capt. Archibald Kennedy, loyalist.

receipt of your notice of its want. If it does not suit the workman to wait so long, and you could borrow that much Specie I will engage to replace it with interest in the time.

In case you should purchase please to have my Arms and crest properly dispos'd of on the chariot. I send them for this purpose. I am etc.

P S. Mr. Tilghman tells me that Genl. Dickenson if in town and would be so obliging as to take the trouble would be an excellent judge of the Chariot in its prest. state and director with respect to the finish of it. In doing wch neatly and in taste I should not begrudge adding to the price fixed.

To MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Hd. Qrs., Morris-town, March 30, 1780.

Dr. Sir: This will be delivered to you by Brigadier General Du Portail, Chief Engineer; a Gentleman of whose abilities and merit I have the highest opinion and who, if he arrives in time will be of essential utility to you. The delay that will probably attend General Clinton's operations in consequence of the losses he has suffered on the voyage, makes me hope, his assistance will not come too late; and the critical situation of your affairs induces me to part with him, though in case of any active operations here I should sensibly feel the want of him. From the experience I have had of this Gentleman, I recommend him to your particular confidence. You will find him able in the branch he professes; of a clear and comprehensive judgment; of extensive military science, and of great zeal assiduity and bravery; in short I am persuaded you will find him a most valuable acquisition and will avail yourself effectually of his services. You cannot employ him too much on every important occasion.

Every appearance indicates that the enemy will make a most vigorous effort to the Southward. My intelligence from New York announces a further embarkation. The moment it is ascertained I shall advise you of it, and of the corps that compose the detachment.

I am with the warmest wishes for your success and with the truest esteem etc.[97]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 30, 1780.

Gentlemen: Upon receiving information that the enemy are preparing to send a reinforcement to the southward, I have determined to detach Major Lee's Corps, both Horse and Foot to that quarter, and have written to the commanding Officer to put them in readiness as expeditiously as possible. As they will undoubtedly want many matters to equip them for so long a march, I have directed the Officer to repair himself to Philada. and make application to the Board for what are necessary. I would recommend a liberal supply if possible, as I am informed by Lieut. Colo. Temple of late Blands that nothing of the kind is to be procured to the southward. I suppose you will think it expedient for the Foot with the Baggage to proceed down Chesapeak Bay by Water and meet the Horse at Petersburg. It will in that case be necessary to give orders for Vessels to be provided at the Head of Elk. Be kind enough to forward the inclosed to Capt. Von Heer of the Marechausé Dragoons, to whom I have written to repair to and take up Major Lees quarters at Burlington. I have the honor etc.[98]

[97] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The date line is in the writing of Washington. The draft is indorsed by Tilghman as of March 28.

[98] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To JOHN MATHEWS[99]

March 30, 1780.

Sir: I am much obliged to you for your favor of the 24th of this month.

It would seem pretty evident from the enemy's inactivity, from which we derive so many advantages, that some very considerable derangement has happened in their affairs. Whether this arises from the want of horses, the loss of military stores, or an insufficiency in the Article of small craft for the transportation of troops, or of proper ships to attempt the harbour, the result is the same to us; and I would flatter myself in the same hopes that you have expressed on this head. You speak of the arrival of Roebuck and transports from the Southward at New-York, but I have not had any information of this kind altho' my inquiries have been particular. [The Russel from Savannah and] some provision vessels from Cork have got in lately, but there are no other entries of consideration, which have taken place within these few weeks.

My intelligence for some time past has looked towards a considerable move on the part of the enemy; flat boats have been collecting and a number of boatmen engaged for a particular service. But the preparations were of such a nature as would not admit of any decisive conclusions. Since this general intelligence, I have received some of a more pointed nature, that indicates another embarkation [of abt. 2500 men] for some distant part. And under the circumstances of the enemy to the Southward it is most probable it is for this quarter. [I expect to have the particrs. in a day or two when I shall have the honr. of writg. fully to Congress on the subject.] With great regard etc.[1]

[99] Delegate to the Continental Congress from South Carolina.

[1] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 30, 1780.

Dr. Sir: From the diminution of our force at the Highlands by the expiration of the service of many of the Troops and which will become still greater, from the same cause, and the probability that the Enemy may attempt to enterprise something against the posts there; I have determined to bring the New-Hampshire Brigade from Danbury to reinforce you. The inclosed Letter to the Commanding Officer there, You will perceive is for this purpose which you will be pleased to seal and transmit after you have made proper arrangements for quartering them. If there are Barracks and Covering sufficient on this side the River at West point, for one of the Massachusetts Brigades stationed on the Other, it appears to me that it will be best to remove it and for the New Hampshire to occupy the Quarters they leave. This however is an arrangement, of the propriety of which you will finally decide yourself, as circumstances may seem to require.

I am exceedingly pained to find that such a spirit of resigning seems to have taken place in the Massachusetts line. Not less than Twelve Officers, Captains, Lieuts. and Ensigns, have left it in this way, since the 1st of January. Two thirds of them in the course of a few days past; and I have now before me Four or five applications more for the same purpose. I trust that this conduct will be better considered of and that there will be no more resignations. Besides the injury which must arise to the service from the practice, the Officers who pursue it will illy requite the measures, which it is said, the State have lately adopted for their relief.

I have received Your Favours of the 25 and 27 Instant. If the proposed Exchange of Regiments between Majors Maxwell

and Ballard is agreeable to themselves and to the Officers of the respective Regiments, I don't know that there can be any objection to it. The exchange however should be the effect of such an agreement or it may become a subject of some trouble hereafter. I am etc.

P. S. I am extremely anxious to have the New Hampshire Troops at the Highland posts, as soon as it can be done, and request You will have the place for their reception and accommodation ready for them as soon as circumstances will admit.[2]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ENOCH POOR OR OFFICER COMMANDING HIS BRIGADE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 30, 1780.

Sir: The diminution of the force at the Highland posts, by the expiration of the terms of the inlistment of the troops stationed there last Fall, makes it necessary that the New Hampshire Brigade should move to West point or its vicinity. Major General Howe will inform you when he will have quarters ready for the reception of the Brigade, and you will be pleased to march when he shall give you orders. I am etc.[3]

To COLONEL THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 30, 1780.

Sir: I have rec'd your favor of the 23d Inst. The Sketches which you mention as having sent His Excellency thro' Genl Howe are not yet come to hand. It is to be lamented that your present number of fatigue men are not adequate either to the occasion there is for them, or your wishes. The Genl has

[2] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.
[3] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

however written some days ago on the subject to Genl Howe and no doubt every thing will be done towards forwarding the works, that is within his power. You will be pleased to make application to the Genl[4] for the order you requested, for Shoes for the Masons of the Virginia line; and also in all future similar cases, as he is authorised on that head. I am &c.[5]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL EZRA NEWHALL[6]

Head Quarters, Morristown, March 30, 1780.

Sir: I have recd. your letter of the 20th. instant. Genl. Howe or the officer commanding in your quarter has full authority by his instructions to take such order in cases of furloughs as he may judge proper. Under the representation which you have made, I have no objection to your absence on Col Putnams return provided circumstances will admit of it at the time, and should it be agreeable to the commanding officer. I am etc.[7]

To THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF LEE'S CORPS[8]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 30, 1780.

Sir: You will be pleased, upon the receipt of this, to take the most expeditious measures for putting the whole Corps both Horse and Foot in readiness to march. If you move, your destination will be South Carolina. The Horse will go the whole way by land; the Foot will go down Chesapeak Bay by Water and meet the Horse at Petersburg. As soon as you have given the necessary orders at Burlington you had best repair to Philada.

[4] Maj. Gen. Robert Howe.
[5] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "R. K. Meade, A. D C."
[6] Of the Fifth Massachusetts Regiment. He was transferred to the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783, and served to November, 1783.
[7] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.
[8] At Burlington, N. J.

and apply to the Board of War, to whom I have written on the subject, for the Articles wanting to equip the Corps for so long a march. Be pleased to acknowledge this; send your answer to the Qr. Mr. at Trenton, who will forward it to me. I am etc.[9]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Friday, March 31, 1780.

Parole Magazine. Countersigns Niveous, Novel.

By a Division General Court Martial held by order of Brigadier General Clinton, Lieutent. Col. Huntington, Prest.

Ensign Spoor[10] of the 3rd. New York regiment was tried for, "Scandalous and ungentlemanlike behaviour towards Captain Pell[11] on the evening of the 29th. of January last, with several others and forcibly putting him out of the room of a public house in which he had passed the evening", and plead "Not guilty."

The Court after considering the evidences and the Prisoner's defence are of opinion that the prisoner is guilty of a breach of the 21st. article, 14th. section of the Articles of War and adjudge that he be discharged from the service.

The General confirms the sentence against Ensign Spoor, because there was a shameful combination of a number against a single Person, who appears to have given no provocation.

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[9] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. Sparks prints this letter as to Maj. Henry Lee.

On March 30 Washington wrote also to the Deputy Quartermaster General at Trenton, asking him to forward the above letter by express. This letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

On this same date (March 30) Washington also wrote briefly to Captain Von Heer. or officer commanding the Marechaussée Corps, to march from Pottsgrove, or Reading, Pa., to Burlington, N. J., "as expeditiously as possible." This draft is in the *Washington Papers.*

[10] Ensign John Spoor.

[11] Capt. Samuel Treadwell Pell, of the Second New York Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

*To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, Morris-town, March 31, 1780.

My dear Sir: I was about to fulfil the promise made to you in my last, of writing fully on the subject of your letter of the [12] Instt. and other matters, when your obliging favr. of the 22d. came to hand. The hint contained in it was too seasonable and striking for me not to derive a lesson of use from it. I shall therefore, as there is danger attending written communications of private Sentimts. and my letters to the body of which you are a member will convey every occurrance and information of a public nature within my sphere of action content myself with acknowledging and thanking you for the letters you may do me the favor to write.[13]

[12] March 7. This letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

Schuyler had written (March 22): "Communications on paper are more exposed from, than to the Army, It may therefore be proper for Characters In particular Situations not to be particular unless where there is the Greatest Certainty of safety In the Conveyance. I mention this least You should attend from your politeness to more than I Expect, a bare Acknowledgment that a letter has been received will Suffice the *friend.*" Schuyler's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[13] Schuyler's letter (March 22) had given Washington a brief outline of the action of Congress in a proposed reorganization of the Quartermaster General's Department. His reply (April 5) to the above letter from Washington, continued the report: "There has been some wicked work respecting a Certain appointment which Gen. Greene will advise you of. The Gentleman I have last mentioned addressed Congress in a letter of the 3d Inst. wishing for their Sense on his General Conduct in the Q Master department; a Resolution was proposed, that Congress had full Confidence In his Integrity And Ability, and requesting his future exertions; this brought on much debate. Amendments were moved, and the house got into heats, and an adjournment was deemed necessary to give the Members time to Cool. A member more zealous for the Generals reputation than prudent, Observed that he was an officer In whom the Commander in Chief had the highest Confidence. That he was the first of all the Subordinate Generals In point of Military knowledge and ability, that in case of an accident happening to Gen: Washington he would be the properest person to Command the Army, *And that General Washington thought so too* another observed that he had a very high Opinion of G. Greens Military Abilities, that he believed the General had too, but that he believed no person on Earth was Authorized to say as much as the words above scored, Implied. I mention this that your Ex: may guard against any Misapprehensions which this may Occasion with Your Officers. Gen: Greene will Inform you who delivered the Imprudent Speech." Schuyler's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

A contemporary copy of the report of the Commissioners (Timothy Pickering and Thomas Mifflin) appointed by Congress to arrange the Quartermaster Department,

I am much indebted to you for your communications from the Southward. I feel many anxious moments on acct. of the Carolinas which are increased by the daily diminution of our force in this quarter; the little prospect of getting it augmented in time to answer any valuable purpose, and other obvious embarrassments.

We are now beginning to experience the fatal consequences of the policy which delayed calling upon the States for their quota of Men to a period when they ought to have been joined,

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under the new scheme of "Specific Supplies", is found in the *Washington Papers,* under date of Mar. 27, 1780. It is printed in the *Journals of the Continental Congress* of that date.

In the *Washington Papers,* also, is a six-page folio brief of this report, entirely in Washington's writing, referring to the pages of the manuscript copy by number, and commenting upon the provisions of the report in the following instances: "Page 12. The occasional provision for the March of Troops, Detachmts., Parties &ca. out of the Rout of the Magazines is so slow and tedeous in its operation that the end of every march must be defeated. 13. The mode of paying for it too is equally exceptionable. 14. One Quarter of a Cord of Wood for 60 Men including Officers and 20 lbs of Straw: is not this too small? 15. One Qr. Mr. Genl., One Dy. for the main Army and for each separate Army. The Q M. G. and each of his Dys. to be allowed one Clerk. Is this sufft.? When one or more Regts. March a Captn. to be appd. by the Q M. G. to do the Duty of Q. M. pro tempore and recd. pay for it. Why confind to a Cap.? . . . 22. Q. M. G. to collect all Horss. Wagns. and Teams by the Opening of the Campaign and apply to the Bd. of War for the defy. who is to employ one or more Persons to purchase them. N B This is making other persons (after travelling through two or three Stages) do what the Qr. Mr. should do in the first Inste. . . . 24. Allowance of Waggons in some instances are two small. . . . 26. No Horses belonging to the United States shall be allowed to officers for Ridg. or Batt. Horses but in lieu thereof shall be paid in Spanish Milled Dollars or &ca. equivalent. To a P. M, Adjt., Q M. each Dollars. To a Field Cons. of M: S. Dollars. To a Conducter of Baggage and P. Waggons Dollars. To a Prot. Ml. Dollars. NB. Why an allowance to these and not to other Officers?" [The table of rations allowed the officers, page 26, has the following note:] "NB Many of these allowances are too low. . . . 29. . . . For sudden demands of Horses the Q. M. G. or his D. or offr. Comg. Detacht. New levies or &ca to hire or Contract for Teams. As this may not be accomplished; It is recommended to the States to pass Laws to aid. NB. While this is doing, and under these circumstances Detachmts. &ca. will be unable to move. and every end and design of detaching will be defeated. . . . 37. Such of them as are carried into the field shall be undr. the care of field Comy. who shall keep the Acct. of them Timber Boards and other articles wch. are to be found in the vicinity of the Army to be provided by a Contractor to be appd. for that purpose by the Qr. M G and Comg. Offr. of Artillery out of the Offrs. of the Artillery Artificers or Q. Mrs. Artificers who shall supply both departments, agreeably to orders from Hds. of them Money's for these Contracts to be drawn from the Military Chest on the appr. of the Q. M. G and Comg. Offr. of Artilly. respectively. The Acct. to be examined by once [*sic*] in every three months. NB. It is difficult to see into the policy or œconomy of this."

that there might have been time for arranging and preparing them for the duties of the field. What to do for the Southern States without involving consequences equally alarming in this quarter I know not. The enemy are certainly preparing for another embarkation (from present appearances of abt. 2500 men) but as I expect a more particular acct. of this matter by tomorrow I shall defer writing to Congress till then. With the most sincere regard and Affectn. I am etc.

To COLONEL SETH WARNER

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 31, 1780.

Sir: I have recd yours of the 10th: Instant by Ensign Tolman[14] to whom I have given a Warrt: for 4400 dollars for Bounty to 44 Men inlisted previous to the 23d. Jany. 1779 and a Warrant for 5000 dollars for the purpose of recruiting. Congress not having determined upon filling the additional Battalions, among which yours is included, I do not at present look upon myself authorised to give you liberty to proceed in recruiting. You will therefore upon the Receipt of this call in the Officers who are upon that service and apply the 5000 dollars sent by Mr. Tolman to paying off the Bounties of those who have been inlisted. You can settle your recruiting Account with the Commissioners of public Accounts at Albany and should there be a Balance in your favor, I will grant a Warrant for it, upon being furnished with the settlement made with the Commissioners. I have given Mr. Tolman an Order for 120 suits of Cloathes which I imagine will be the amount of the Men returned by you as already reinlisted and those who may be expected in from your recruiting parties. Here I cannot help taking occasion to mention the necessity of your paying a strict attention to the application and

[14] Ensign Thomas Tollman (Tolman), of Warner's Additional Continental regiment. He was appointed lieutenant in May, 1780, and retired in January, 1781.

distribution of this Cloathing, as it appears, by former deliveries of the different Cloathiers, that your Regimental pay Master has heretofore had a much greater quantity than any other Corps in proportion to its size.

I have likewise given an order upon the Quarter Master General for the portmanteaux for your Officers. I am &c.[15]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, March 31, 1780.

Sir: I have the honor to inclose the Report of the proceedings of the Commissioners appointed to meet at Amboy the 9th: instant, for the purpose of settling a General Cartel, by which, Congress will perceive that the present attempt has been as unsuccessful as all the former, and from the same cause.

In January, I was honored with a letter from the Minister of France, informing me of his having received advice from Europe, that the Court of London, on account of the difficulty they found in procuring Men, had instructed their Commander in Chief here, to treat with us on a national footing, rather than fail to obtain a reinforcement to their Army by the release of their prisoners in our hands. He added, that he had communicated this intelligence to Congress, and that Congress had requested him to transmit it to me, as a matter which ought materially to influence the measures we were about to take on the subject of an Exchange.

Though I was strongly persuaded beforehand, that there was a mistake in His Excellency's information, and that the advantages to be reaped by the enemy from the proposed Exchange would not be a sufficient inducement to a step of the nature it imported, which I took the liberty to signify to him, yet I thought it my duty to make the experiment, as well from

[15] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

motives of respect to the communication, as from the possibility of its being well founded. I therefore directed our Commissioners to take every method to ascertain the Enemy's views on this head, and if the British Commissioners did not come with national powers, to decline doing any thing with them in an official capacity; but after satisfying themselves that nothing was to be effected on a larger scale, they were instructed to enter into private Conversation on the terms of a particular Exchange. Their letter No. 2 will shew what was done in consequence.[16] Congress will perceive that their proposal was not accepted by the Gentlemen on the other side, who insisted on the exchange being at all events extended to one half of the second division of the Convention troops. This was a departure from the plan concerted between General Phillips and Colonels Magaw, Matthews &c. If Congress think that humanity requires or policy permits us to accede to the enemy's ultimatum, I shall be happy to execute their orders; but it is a point of so much delicacy and importance, that I cannot forbear earnestly requesting I may be excused from deciding in it. On one hand the acquisition of so many Men will be of great moment to the enemy, if they meet with success to the Southward; on the other, I see not how we shall be able to maintain our Officers in captivity and the expence is no trifling consideration. I think it necessary to observe, that if the Enemy's proposals should be accepted, it may be June before the prisoners are delivered; but perhaps it will be judged advisable to delay a determination, 'till the probable issue of southern Affairs is a little unfolded. I have the honor, &c.[17]

[16] The unofficial letter of March 26, from St. Clair, Carrington, and Hamilton, to Washington, the original of which is in the *Washington Papers,* and a copy in the *Papers of the Continental Congress,* no. 167.

[17] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. The letter was read in Congress on April 6 and referred to John Morin Scott, William Churchill Houston, and William Ellery. This committee was discharged Oct. 13, 1780, and the matter referred to John Sullivan, Theodorick Bland, and John Mathews.

*FORMATION OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY UNDER THE IMME

States	No. of Regt.	Colonls. names	Brigadiers	Majr. Generals	
Pensa.	1	Chambers	Wayne	St. Clair	Line of the Army
	2	Stewart			
	4	Wm. Butlar			
	7	Conner			
	10	Humpton			
	3	Craig	Irvine		
	5	Johnson			
	6	Magaw			
	9	R. Butlar			
	11	Hubley			
Jersey	1	Ogden	Maxwell	Stirling	
	2	Shreve			
	3	Dayton			
Maryld. Addl.		Spencer			
		Livingston			
York.	1	Vanschaic	Clinton		
	2	Courtlandt			
	3	Gansevort			
	4	Weisenfeldt			
	5	Willet			
Connect.	3	Wyllis	Parsons	Steuben	
	4	Durkee			
	6	Mcigs			
	8	Shirman			
	9	Webb			
	1	Starr	Huntington		
	2	Butlar			
	5	Bradley			
	7	Swift			
Rh. Isld.		Angell			
Massats.	3	Greaton	Nixon	Howe	
	5	Putnam			
	6	Nixon			
	12	Sprout			
	2	Bailey			
	1	Vose	Glover		
	4	Shepherd			
	13	Smith			
	15	Bigalow			
	8	Jackson			
	7	Brooks	Patterson	McDougall	
	9	Wesson			
	10	Marshall			
	11	Tupper			
	14	Bradford			
	16	Jacksons			
N. Hampe.	1	Cilley	Poor		
	2	Reed			
Addl.	3	Scammell			
		Hazen			

DIATE COMD. OF THE COMR. IN CHIEF FOR THE CAMPAIGN 1780

Brigadrs.		Field Officers	Captns.	No. of Regt.	States	
	Riffle Corps	Majr. Parr	Craig	1	Pensa.	Light Infantry
			Christie	3	Do	
Marquis De la Fayette	Hand	Cr. Stewart M T. Moore	Talbot	2	Pensa.	
			Henderson	4	Do	
			Boude[18]	5	Do	
			Nice[19]	6	Do	
			Lush[20]	7	Do	
			McClellan[21]	9	Do	
			Stake[22]	10	Do	
			Walker[23]	11	Do	
		C. Courtland	Ogden	1	Jersey	
			Bowman[24]	2	Do	
				3	Do	
			Bunnell[25]	S	Addls.	
				2	N. York	
				3	Do	
				4	Do	
				5	Do	
		C Gemat		1	N. Hampe.	
				2	Do	
				3	Do	
				H	Addls.	
					Maryld.	
				W	Connt.	
			Olney[26]	A	Rh. Isld.	
				G	Do	
	Poor	C. Wyllys		1	Connt.	
				2	Do	
				3	Do	
				4	Do	
				5	Do	
				6	Do	
				7	Do	
				8	Do	
		C. Greaton M. Galvan		1	Massats.	
				3	Do	
				5	Do	
				7	Do	
				9	Do	
				11	Do	
				13	Do	
				15	Do	
		C. Shepherd		2	Do	
				4	Do	
				6	Do	
				8	Do	
				10	Do	
				12	Do	
				14	Do	
				16	Do[27]	

See footnotes on the following page.

To THE BOARD OF TREASURY

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 1, 1780.

Gentn: From the desire and endeavours of many of the soldiery to leave the service wherever they can, under the pretext of their having been only temporarily engaged and that their inlistments have expired, and the difficulty of ascertaining the point in most instances on account of their inlistments being lost or of the resignations or deaths of the Officers who inlisted them, which are the cases, it is found, in which they generally prefer their claims to be discharged; I would take the liberty to request that the Honourable Board will transmit me the Muster Rolls for May, June and July 1777, as it is by these only that the matter can be determined so as to do justice to the Men and the public. When these claims shall

[18] Capt. Thomas Boude, of the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment. He was transferred to the Second Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1783, and served to November, 1783.

[19] Capt. John Nice, of the Sixth Pennsylvania Regiment. He was transferred to the Second Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1781, and served to June, 1783.

[20] Capt. William Lusk (Lush), of the Seventh Pennsylvania Regiment. He was transferred to the Second Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1781, and retired in January, 1783.

[21] Capt. Joseph McClellan, of the Seventh Pennsylvania Regiment. He was transferred to the Second Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1781, and resigned in June, 1781.

[22] Capt. Jacob Stake, of the Tenth Pennsylvania Regiment. He was transferred to the First Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1781; wounded at Green Springs, Va., in July, 1781; transferred to the Third Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1783; served to June, 1783.

[23] Capt. Andrew Walker, of the Eleventh Pennsylvania Regiment. He was transferred to the Second Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1783, and served to the close of the war.

[24] Capt Nathaniel Bowman, of the Second New Jersey Regiment. He was made major of the First New Jersey Regiment in February, 1783, and served to April, 1783.

[25] Capt. Jacob Brunner(?) (Bunnell), of the German regiment (Pa.). He retired in January, 1781.

[26] Capt. Stephen Olney, of the Second Rhode Island Regiment. He had been wounded at Springfield, N. J., in June, 1780; retained in Olney's Rhode Island Battalion in May, 1781; wounded at Yorktown, Va., in October, 1781; resigned in March, 1782.

[27] Apparently arranged in anticipation of cooperation with the French. The date is, probably, before the Army broke up its winter quarters in the spring of 1780.

appear to be pretty will adjusted, the Rolls shall be returned. I have the Honor etc.[28]

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 1, 1780.

Dear Sir: Inclosed you have Duplicates of my letters of the 30th. ulto. the originals of which having been sent by a soldier on foot, I am apprehensive he may have been detained by the Weather. I have since recd. your favr. of the 28th: March: The intelligence communicated in it, urges the necessity of drawing down Poors Brigade as expeditiously as possible, and also points out the expediency of endeavouring to get a supply of provision within the Garrison. I am well aware of the difficulties you will meet with in accomplishing the last, but I am convinced you will leave no means unessayed. I am &c.

P. S. Pay particular and proper attention to the Signals for alarming the Country.[29]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENJAMIN TEMPLE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 1, 1780.

Dear Sir: In consequence of the promotion of Lt. Colo. White to the 1st. Regt. of Dragoons with the Rank of Lt. Colo. Commandant, you will, agreeable to the regulations of the Army, be transferred to the 4th: Regt: to which Lt. Colo. White formerly belonged. I had mentioned this arrangement to Colo. White in my instructions to him previous to his

[28] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. Although this letter is plainly addressed and indorsed to the Board of Treasury, the muster rolls were acknowledged and returned to the Board of War. (See Washington's letter to the Board of War, Apr. 23, 1780, *post*.)

[29] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman; the P. S. is in that of Richard Kidder Meade.

going to the southward, but I am informed you missed him upon the Road. Upon your representation that the state of your Affairs require your return to Virginia before you can with conveniency join the 4th. Regt. you have liberty to proceed thither; and as you seem to be of opinion that you could, if authorized and furnished with money for the purpose, recruit Men for the Regiment to which you are going, you will be pleased upon your arrival in Philada. to make application to the Board of War and take their directions on the subject. I have for some time past given liberty to Colo. Moylan and Colo. Sheldon to inlist Men for their respective Regiments upon the following terms: to serve with the Regiments as dismounted Dragoons untill it should be deemed expedient or convenient to mount them; the Bounty 200 dollars to the Men and 20 dollars to the recruiting Officer; the term of service expressly for the War and the Men natives or such as have been long in the Country and connected in it and every way qualified for Dragoons. The excessive high price of Horses and the difficulty of subsisting them, was the reason of my determining to direct the inlistments on the foregoing terms for the present. Should the Board of War not concur with your propositions, you will be pleased to return and join the 4th: Regt. as soon as the situation of your private Affairs will possibly admit. I am &c.[30]

To MRS. MARY AUCHMUTY

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 1, 1780.

Madam: I am pleased to have it in my power to comply with the request in your letter of the 27th of last month.

[30] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

The commissary of prisoners has received orders to signify to Mr Auchmuty[31] that he has permission to go into New York for three weeks; and I hope it will reach him in time to see you before your sailing. I am etc.[32]

COUNCIL OF WAR[33]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 1, 1780.

The General states to the Council that since they met on the 27th of last month, he has received further accounts from New York, which appears authentic, that Lord Rawdon's[34] Brigade, said to consist of his own Regiment and of Brown's,[35] Fanning's[36] and another Corps; also Two Hessian Regiments and the 42d and another British Regiment, estimated at about 2500 rank and file, were preparing to embark and it was generally believed to reinforce the Army under Sir Henry Clinton at the Southward. Under this information and supposing that this embarkation should actually take place, The General requests the Council to advise him, whether a Detachment and to what amount should be sent from this Army to reinforce in the Southern States and at what period they should commence their march.

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[31] Richard Auchmuty.

[32] On April 1 McHenry wrote to Commissary John Beatty that Auchmuty had the General's permission to go into New York for three weeks. "You will be pleased to do what is further necessary on the occasion, and inclose him the within letter." McHenry's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[33] The members, exclusive of the Commander in Chief, were: Maj. Gens. Lord Stirling, St. Clair, and De Kalb, and Brigadier Generals Clinton, Maxwell, Knox, Hand, Huntington, and Gist. The council advised, in case the British made the detachment from New York, "or one nearly equal to it, that about Two Thousand Men should be sent from hence to reenforce the Southern States." This decision was signed by all the members, except Washington.

[34] Francis, Lord Rawdon. He was colonel of Volunteers of Ireland, British Provincial Troops.

[35] Lieut Col. Thomas Brown, of the King's Carolina Rangers, British Provincial Troops.

[36] Col. Edmund Fanning, of the King's American Regiment, British Provincial Troops.

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 1, 1780.

Sir: I have been honoured with Your Excellency's Letter of the 21st Instant with the Inclosures to which it refers.[37] The proceedings of the Honourable Council on the subject of the Memorial, were certainly founded in the greatest propriety, and I am surprised the Officers in whose behalf it was preferred, should have wished for a departure from a general principle of arrangement. At the same time that the determination of the Council on the occasion must be approved by all, I cannot but acknowledge myself peculiarly flattered by their expressions of confidence and the manner in which they have been pleased to refer the business to me. I have the Honor etc.[38]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Saturday, April 1, 1780.

Parole Nectar. Countersigns Oracle, Optics.

The State Cloathiers and regimental Cloathiers of the Additional Battalions are desired to call upon the Cloathier General tomorrow for their respective proportions of shoes.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Sunday, April 2, 1780.

Parole Privado. Countersigns Powers, Protect.

By a division General Court Martial held by order of General Gist, March 27th. 1780, Major Deane[39] President, James

[37] Reed's letter is not now found in the *Washington Papers*, but the memorial of the Pennsylvania artillery officers to the Supreme Executive Council, dated March 20, and the resolve of the Council, referring the matter to Washington (March 21), are in the *Washington Papers*.

[38] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

[39] Maj. John Dean (Deane), of the Fourth Maryland Regiment. He was transferred to the Second Maryland Regiment in January, 1781, and died in November, 1781.

Stinson of the Delaware regiment was brought before the court charged with "Promoting and encouraging discontent among the men, and making use of language that tended to countenance desertion" and plead "Not guilty."

The Court having duly considered the charge against the prisoner, with the evidence, are of opinion, he is guilty of the 3rd. article 2nd, section of the Articles of War and do sentence him to suffer death.

The Commander in Chief approves the Sentence.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 2, 1780.

Sir: Since I had the Honor of addressing Your Excellency on the 28th Ulto., I have received intelligence, which seems to place it beyond doubt, that the Enemy are about to make a further embarkation of Troops from New York, and the common opinion is, that they are going to reinforce Sir Henry Clinton. Lord Rawdon's brigade, said to consist of his own Regiment and of Brown's, Fanning's, and Another corps: Two Hessian Regiments and the 42d and Another British, estimated in the whole at about 2500 rank and file, are the Troops which will, according to report, make the embarkation. This intelligence, the probability there seems to be, that the Enemy will endeavour to push their operations with vigor at the Southward; the weak state of our force there and unhappily in this quarter also, have laid me under great embarrassments, with respect to the conduct that ought to be pursued. In considering the point a choice of difficulties occurs to our view. The Southern States it is to be apprehended may require much support, and while we attempt to afford it from hence, we run a serious risk in this quarter, from the facility with which the Enemy by the help of their

fleet can unite their force at any point, where they find us weak. Congress will the better conceive in how delicate a situation we stand, when I inform them, that Our whole operating force present on this and on the other side of the North River, amounts to only Ten thousand four Hundred rank and file, of which about Two Thousand Eight Hundred will have completed their term of service by the last of May (Two thirds of it by the end of this Month) while the Enemy's regular force at New York and its dependencies must amount upon a moderate calculation to about Eleven Thousand rank and file. I inclose Congress a List of the Corps at New York, after the Detachment which sailed with Sir Henry Clinton, taken from Gaine's Register for the present Year. Our situation too is the more critical from the impossibility of concentring our force, as well for want of the means of taking the Field, as from the early period of the season.

The want also of a Magazine of flour and Salt provision at West point renders it the more necessary, that our Covering force should be respectable, as from this unlucky circumstance which could not be prevented, the post in case of investiture, might be exposed to great risk at least, if it's relief depended much on a force to be collected. And indeed a Militia without they are well supported, are not calculated, nor can they be from the nature of things, to make a regular, disciplined Army abandon Enterprizes of such a nature.

But notwithstanding these Objections perhaps something should be hazarded here, relying on the internal strength of the Country, for the purpose of giving further succour to the Southern States, where there is not the same dependence. I shall therefore put the Maryland line and the Delaware Regiment under marching Orders immediately, and have directed provision to be made for transporting them as far as Philadelphia, and propose their march, if practicable, should commence on

the sailing of the Detachment from New York. But before the measure is carried into execution, I shall be happy to know the sense of Congress on its expediency. The consequences may be very important either way, and I wish to have their instructions for my government.

In case the detachment is to march, it's ulterior proceedings and rout from Philadelphia will depend upon the Orders which Congress or the Honourable the Board of War by their direction shall give; for it is impossible for me under our circumstances, to give directions upon the occasion. The Qr. Master and Commissary General are both at Philadelphia, and will exert themselves I am persuaded to carry into execution, any plan for the transportation and accommodation of the Troops that may be judged most eligible, as far as it may be in their power. Baron de Kalb, [who is now at the head of the Maryd. division],[40] will command the Detachment in case it proceeds, and will set out to morrow or next day for Philadelphia to assist and expedite the arrangements for it's future movements.

If the Troops could embark without delay at the Head of Elk and arrive safe in James River, it would not only be a great ease to them; but it would expedite their arrival at the Southward, and prevent many Desertions which will probably happen, if they march thro' their State. But how far this mode of proceeding may be eligible, I will not pretend to determine; as the Enemy in case they should be advised of it, which every precaution of secrecy would be necessary to prevent, might, by sending Armed Vessels into the Bay, attempt to intercept them in their passage.

Major Lee's Corps is under marching Orders for the Southward, of which I advised the Honourable the Board of War on

[40] In the draft, which is also in the writing of Harrison, the words here inclosed in brackets have been inserted by Washington, whose spelling has been followed.

the 30th and the Commanding Officer is directed to proceed with it, as soon as he adjusts with them the proper arrangements.

I inclose Your Excellency an Extract from Robertson's New York American Gazette of the 28th of last Month. The intelligence if true, is very important and interesting.

I have the Honor etc.[41]

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 2, 1780.

Dear Sir: Since I wrote to you on the 26th. ulto: I have received information which does not seem to admit of doubt, that the enemy are preparing another embarkation, the destination of which is said to be to the Southwd. In consequence of this I have determined, if the measure meets the approbation of Congress, to detach the Maryland division to that quarter and have also submitted the Route of the troops to their decision. I desired them to communicate their determination on these points to you and the Commy. General that you may take the earliest opportunities of making the necessary provision should there be occasion. The number of Men to be accommodated on the march will amount to about what I mentioned in my last. Baron de Kalb who will command the detachment will set out for Philada. to morrow or next day and will be at hand to concert with you the necessary arrangements.

Should a passage down Chesapeak be determined upon in preference to a march the whole way, the more the motive for preparing Vessels at the Head of Elk can be covered the better, as the enemy may, if they have sufficient notice, endeavour to interrupt the communication. I am &c.[42]

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[41] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The letter was read in Congress on April 5 and referred to the Board of War.

[42] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 2, 1780.

D.Sir: I have considered the several objects of the two letters from Genl. Phillips of the 22d and 29 of last month, which you put into my hand, and would summarily observe for your government so far as my opinion is concerned.

Gen. Phillips may be informed that the American Commissary of prisoners will be instructed to signify my permission for Major Harnage and Captn. Hawker of the 62 B: R. to go to New-York on their paroles.

The proposition in favour of Governor Hamilton and the other persons described by General Phillips cannot be complied with. Altho their release would have been considered in a general exchange, I do not think myself at liberty to make them the objects of a particular parole exchange they being claimed as prisoners belonging to the State of Virginia; and besides the proposition appears to be very unequal.

The terms which we have proposed respecting the violators of parole appearing just and reasonable I do not think we should change our sentiments on this head, nor can the exchange of the violators of parole still residing in the States be made a previous measure to a general exchange of prisoners.

I shall take the necessary order that Lt. Lord Torphichen[43] of the 62 B. Regt. and Secd. Lieut. Hadden[44] of the British Artillery, go into New York on parole, and shall consider Mr. Randolph[45] and Fitzhugh[46] as opposed to them, for the

[43] Lieut. James, Lord Torpichen, of the Sixty-second Foot, British Army.

[44] Lieut. James M. Hadden. He had been promoted to first lieutenant in July, 1779.

[45] Lieut. Robert Randolph, of the Third Continental Dragoons. He had been wounded and taken prisoner at Tappan, N. Y., in September, 1778.

[46] Lieut. Peregrine Fitzhugh, of the Third Continental Dragoons. He had also been taken prisoner at Tappan, N. Y.

present. But Genl. Phillips is to understand in this case, that when these two gentlemen return into N. York that it is expected if the British officers should not be recalled that two other American officers of the rank of Lt. Lord Torphichen and Hadden, and the oldest in captivity be immediately liberated on he same conditions. I shall on this account limit the stay of Lt. Randolph and Mr Fitzhugh to a certain period that their brother officers may have a similar indulgence. I wish Genl. Phillips to be fully acquainted with this intention.

Mr. Beatty shall have my instructions to interchange a certificate with Mr. Loring assenting to the proposal that chaplains belonging to either army, when taken are not to be considered as prisoners of war but immediately released.

Inclosed is a passport for Lieut. Bibby[47] to proceed to Genl. Sir Henry Clinton. It restricts him, you will observe to a passage by water and to a return in the same way and only exempts his person and General Phillips' dispatches from capture but not the vessel. I return your letters and am &c.[48]

To BARON STEUBEN

Morris Town, April 2, 1780.

My Dear Baron: I duly received your letter of the 15th. of March, which hurry of business has prevented my acknowledging sooner. Last Night brought me your favour of the 28th. The propositions made by you to Congress for the arrangement of the army this Campaign appears to me, upon the whole best adapted to our circumstances; and especially since so much of the season has elapsed without entering upon it I

[47] Lieut. Thomas Bibby, of the Twenty-fourth Foot, British Army. The draft of his passport, in the writing of Tench Tilghman, is in the *Washington Papers* under date of April 2.

[48] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

am glad the proposed incorporation has been suspended. I doubt however the practicability at this time of augmenting the cavalry or recruiting the additionals, from the circumstance you mentioned; the extreme distress of the treasury, which seems to be totally exhausted and without sufficient resources for the current demands of the service. The present crisis is indeed perplexing beyond description and it is infinitely difficult to devise a remedy.

When I approve your plan for the additional regiments, it is with one condition that Congress can find means to provide for the officers so as to put them upon an equal footing with the other parts of the army. If this cannot be done, they cannot continue in the service. I have incessant applications to this effect and have just written again to Congress on the subject. If the situation of the officers cannot be made more tolerable, it will be preferable to dissolve those corps, incorporate the men with the state lines and let the officers retire to be intitled to pay, subsistence and the emoluments decreed at the end of the war. This will be a very bad expedient if it can be avoided; but it is better than to leave the officers in such a state, that they must be miserable while they stay in the army; obliged in a little time the greatest part of them to quit, while the corps for want of care will rapidly decline and a number of good men be lost to the service.

Your anxiety on the score of Southern affairs cannot exceed mine. The measure of collecting the whole force for the defence of [Charles town] ought no doubt to have been well considered before it was determined. It is putting much to the hazard; but at this distance we can form a very imperfect judgment of its propriety or necessity. I have the greatest reliance on General Lincoln's prudence; but I cannot forbear dreading the event. Ill as we can afford a diminution of our

force here and notwithstanding the danger we run from the facility with which the enemy can concentre their force at our weak points besides other inconveniences I have recommended it to Congress to detach the Maryland division to reinforce the Southern States. Though this detachment cannot in all probability arrive in season to be of any service to Charles Town, it may assist to check the progress of the enemy and save the Carolinas.

My sentiments concerning public affairs correspond too much with yours. The prospect my Dear Baron is gloomy and the storm thickens [*sic*]. Not to have the anxieties you express at the present juncture would be not to feel that zeal and interest in our cause, by which all your whole conduct shows you to be actuated. But I hope we shall extricate ourselves, and bring every thing to a prosperous issue. I have been so inured to difficulties in the course of this contest that I have learned to look upon them with more tranquility than formerly. Those which now present themselves no doubt require vigorous exertions to overcome them; [and I am far from dispairg. of doing it].

Though I shall be happy to have the honor of seeing the Minister[49] in Camp as soon as it may be convenient to him; your reasons for persuading him to defer his journey awhile were good. I wish it were in my power to save him the trouble of the journey by paying him my respects in Philadelphia; but our present military situation joined to other reasons will not permit me to have that honor.

I am very sensible my Dear Baron to the obliging assurances of your regard; and I entreat you to believe there is a perfect reciprocity of sentiments and that I am with great consideration etc.[50]

[49] Chevalier de la Luzerne.
[50] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

To BARON DE KALB

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 2, 1780.

Dear Sir: You will be pleased to transfer the command of the troops below to Brig: Genl. Huntington, and after communicating the instructions, which you have from time to time received, to him, and giving him such general directions as you may have, from observation, conceived necessary for the security of the small posts along the sound and for your main Body, you will be pleased to repair hither. Upon a presumption that the opinion of the Council of yesterday will be carried into execution, I intend that you shall proceed immediately to Philada. to concert measures with the Board of War, Quarter Mr. and Commy. Genl. for the transportation of the troops to the southward.

You will be pleased to be very particular in informing Genl. Huntington of the methods of communicating the Alarm by signals, should the enemy move. I am &c.

P. S. Let your going to Philada. be under the Idea of a Furlough.[51]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MORDECAI GIST

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 2, 1780.

Dr Sir: Under the present situation of things it appears necessary to place the Maryland division under your command in the most perfect state of readiness to move at the shortest notice. It will be indispensable that all guards at a distance should be drawn in; all soldiers that may be servants with officers not belonging or attached to the troops recalled, and every other previous arrangement in your power made for this

[51] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

purpose. You will be pleased to inform the adjutant general, of the parties on command, that they may be withdrawn and replaced and be in readiness with your division to move at a moments warning. I shall consult with the quarter Master Genl. on the score of waggons. I am &c.[52]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 3, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. yours of this date. If the paymasters to the Regiments to which the Officers, going upon the recruiting service respectively belong will apply, I will grant them Warrants equivalent to the pay and subsistence of the Officers up to this time. One person, by bringing orders to receive the money for the rest, may execute the whole Business. As the Gentlemen go to Connecticut expressly upon the call of the State, I think it will be but reasonable in them to defray their necessary travelling expences, which in these times far out run the pay of an Officer of the highest Rank. I am etc.

P. S. Be pleased to send Genl. Phillips letter to Staten Island.[53]

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 3, 1780.

Sir: The Assembly of this State, at their last sitting, passed a law for the payment of the provision which the Army were under the necessity of taking from the inhabitants during the scarcity in Camp and between the 15th: Decemr. and 15th: January. The law directs that no provision seized as aforesaid shall be paid for, unless upon a Certificate signed by the

[52] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.
[53] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Commander in Chief, or by some person authorised by him. That justice may be done to the public and to individuals I have appointed you to meet two Magistrates at this place on Wednesday Morning next to affix the Value of the several Articles taken. You will therefore be pleased to attend accordingly. I am &c.[54]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 3, 1780.

Sir: I have frequently had the honor to address Congress on the subject of those Corps which are unconnected with the lines of particular States. Satisfied of the numerous perplexities, under which they labour, it is with pain and reluctance I trouble them with repeated representations of the same nature; but in the present case it is so indispensable something should be done, that I cannot forbear the repetition, however disagreeable.

The situation of the Officers of these Corps is absolutely insupportable. Unless something effectual can be done to make it more comfortable, it is impossible they can remain in the service. The resolution of Congress for making them part of the State Quotas has rather been a disadvantage, than an advantage. It has had a very partial operation, and the benefit resulting to a few has only served to establish a contrast that embitters the sufferings of the rest. Nothing can be conceived more chagrining, than for an Officer to see himself destitute of every necessary, while another, not only in the service of the same Government, engaged in defending the same cause, but even in the same regiment and sometimes standing by his side, in the same Company, is decently, if not amply, provided.

[54] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Enthusiasm alone can support him in a moments perseverance; but even this principle must give way to a necessity so continued and so hopeless. Dayly applications are made to me to know whether there is a prospect of relief, always accompanied with a declaration, that it is impossible any longer to endure the extremities to which they are driven.

I intreat the attention of Congress to this matter. If there is no way to make provision for the Officers, it would be better to dissolve the Corps, incorporate the men with the Regiments belonging to the State lines, and let the Officers retire with pay and subsistence and such other emoluments as may be enjoyed by others after the War. In their present state, they are actually suffering every inconvenience, in fruitless expectation of a remedy, that will perhaps never come. Those who have less resource otherwise, less zeal, or less fortitude are resigning from day to day, a relaxation of care in the interior of the regiments must be a necessary consequence and many valuable men will be gradually lost to the service who might be saved. It is much better therefore that the expedient suggested should be adopted than that things should remain as now circumstanced. But if it were possible to obviate the necessity for it, it were much to be wished; as it would preserve many of our best Officers to the Army, who would with infinite reluctance quit the field while the defence of their Country called for their services.[55]

Before I conclude I think it my duty to touch upon the general situation of the Army at this juncture. It is absolutely necessary Congress should be apprised of it, for it is difficult to forsee what may be the result, and as very serious consequences are to be apprehended I should not be justified in

[55]At this point the following in the draft is crossed out: "Yet even in this case an incorporation of these corps into each other will be necessary; from the extreme weakness of several of them, as proposed in my letter of the The supernumerary officers may retire on the terms before mentioned."

preserving silence. There never has been a stage of the War in which the dissatisfaction has been so general or alarming. It has lately in particular instances worn features of a very dangerous complexion. A variety of causes has contributed to this. The diversity in the terms of enlistments, the inequality of the rewards given for entering into the service; but still more the disparity in the provision made by the several States for their respective Troops. The system of State supplies, however, in the commencement, dictated by necessity, has proved in its operation pernicious beyond description. An Army must be raised, paid, subsisted and regulated upon an equal and uniform principle, or the confusions and discontents are endless. Little less than the dissolution of the Army would have been long since the consequence of a different plan, had it not been for a spirit of patriotic virtue both in officers and men of which there are few examples; seconded by the unremitting pains that have been taken to compose and reconcile them to their situation. But these will not be able to hold out much longer against the influence of causes constantly operating and every day with some new aggravation.[56]

Some States from their internal ability and local advantages furnish their Troops pretty amply not only with Cloathing; but with many little comforts and conveniences; others supply them with some necessaries, but on a more contracted scale; while others have it in their power to do little or nothing at all. The officers and men in the routine of duty mix dayly and compare circumstances. Those who fare worse than others of course are dissatisfied and have their resentment excited, not only against their own States, but against the confederacy.

[56]At this point in the draft the following has been crossed out: "The discontents have been gradually rankling by degrees and in spite of every palliative seem on the point of breaking out into some violent and fatal disorder. Congress may be assured no expedient shall be left untried on my part to prevent extremities; but unless the present system can be changed I very much dread every effort will be unavailing."

They become disgusted with a service that makes such injurious distinctions. No arguments can persuade an Officer it is justice he should be obliged to pay £ a yard for Cloth and other things in proportion while another is furnished at a part of the price. The Officers resign, and we have now scarcely a sufficient number left to take care even of the fragments of Corps which remain. The men have not this resource, they murmur, brood over their discontents, and have lately shown a disposition to enter into seditious combinations.

A new scene is now opening which I fear will be productive of more troublesome effects than any thing that has hitherto taken place. Some of the States have adopted the measure of making good the depreciation of the money to their Troops as well for the past as the future. If this does not become general, it is so striking a point, that the consequences must be unspeakably mischievous. I enter not into the propriety of this measure in the view of finance; but confine myself to its operation upon the Army. Neither do I mean to insinuate that the liberality of particular States has been carried to a blameable length. The evil I mean to point out is the inequality of the different provisions, and this is inherent in the present system. It were devoutly to be wished a plan could be adopted by which every thing relating to the Army could be conducted on a general principle under the direction of Congress.

This alone can give harmony and consistence to our military establishment, and I am persuaded will be infinitely conducive to Public œconomy.

I hope I shall not be thought to have exceeded my duty in the unreserved manner in which I have exhibited our situation. Congress I flatter myself will have the goodness to believe that I have no other motives, than a zeal for the Public service, a desire to give them every necessary information, and an

apprehension for the consequences of the evils we now experience. I have the honor etc.[57]

[57] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade The letter was read in Congress on April 6, and on the motion of Robert R. Livingston, seconded by James Searle "Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to proceed to headquarters, to confer with the Commander in Chief on the subject of his letter of the 3d instant, together with the report of the Board of War, and the letter from Baron Steuben, on the subject of a reduction of the regiments, and the report of the commissioners on the arrangement of the staff departments of the army; and that a committee of three be appointed to report instructions for such committee." The committee elected to report the instructions was Robert R. Livingston, Oliver Ellsworth, and John Mathews. The instructions were adopted by Congress on April 12, and on April 13 Philip Schuyler, John Mathews, and Nathaniel Peabody were elected as the committee to proceed to headquarters. (See *Journals of the Continental Congress,* Apr. 12, 13, 1780.)

Luzerne's report to Vergennes, Apr. 16, 1780, on this matter is illuminating: "La crise dans laquelle les affaires du Congrès Se trouvent, a engagé ce Senat à prendre diverses mesures qui ne manqueront pas de produire de bons effets, quoiqu on ne puisse encore prevoir ce qui resultera de la revolution que vient d'avoir lieu dans lé département des finances. Il est difficile de Se faire une juste idée des déprédations qui Se commettoient dans les Seules gestions des munitions, fourages, habillements, hopitaux, tentes, Baraques et charois. Environ neuf mille hommes y etoient employés recevoient d' enormes Salaires et devoroient la Subsistance de l'armée, tandis qu'elle etoit tourmentée par la famine et par l'excès du besoin. Ce trouble à déterminé à y appliquer un prompt remede, et le Congrès vient de nommer un Comité compose de trois de Ses membres, qu' el a investides pouvoirs les plus étendus qu'il ait jamais conférés a une deputation de ce genre. Cette résolution a été l'objet d'une longue et vive discution, dans laquelle un parti nombreux, jaloux de voir trois individus revetus d'un pouvoir aussi illimité, a fait les plus grands efforts, pour le restraindre par des instructions. On a insiste Sur *le danger de leur adjoindre le General en Chef, dont l'influence, a t-on dit, n'est déja que trop grande; On a parle de Ses vertus, comme d'un motif de plus de prendre l'allarme; L'on a observé que l'Entousiasme de l'armée, joint à l'espece de dictature qu'on lui confisit, mettoit le Congrès et les treize Etats à Sa merci, qu il ne falloit pas exposer l'homme le plus vertueux aux tentations délicates de l'ambition, et l'on a proposé de composer le Comité d' un membre de chacun des douze Etats representés. On a Senti que cette proposition tendoit à introduire dans le Comité les mêmes lenteurs que l'on reproche au Congrés, et aprés des debats longs et animés,* le danger où Se trouve la Republique a prev-alu Sur toute autre considération. Les 3 Commissaires ont ête nommés, ils Se proposent de deviser entre eux les differents objets, Sur les-quels chacun d'Eux a le plus de lumieres, et ils doivent Se rendre a l'armée dans peu de jours, pour commencer leur operation. ils Sont autorisés par leurs instructions a déplacer tous employés inutiles ou ignorans, ou qui auront mal versé, à en établir d' autres, a changer, Supprimer, reformer toutes les parties d'administration, qu'ils jugeront vicieuses. ils Se concerteront avec le General en Chef dans les objets relatifs à Ses fonctions et ne pourront rien faire Sans Son consentement; Ils ne Seront tenus qu' à faire au Congrès le raport de leur opération, Sans prendre Son attache, pour proceder à l'execution. Si ce grand trav-ail est conduit avec la vigueur qu' on attend des trois membres qui ont êté choisis, il n'est pas douteux, Monseigneur, qu'il rendra au Congrès la consideration que ce Senat a perdue. Si j'en crois plusieurs de Ses membres il a merité de la perdre par les manoeuvres interressées auxquelles quelques délégués Se Sont livries en Se prév-alant pour assurer le Succès de leurs Speculations mercantilles, de la connoiss-ance qu'ils avoient des opérations Secrettes de l'administration."—*French Transcripts* in the Library of Congress, *Aff. Etrang., Etats Unis,* no. 11, fol. 126.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Monday, April 3, 1780.

Parole Paradox. Countersigns Quaff, Quake.

At a division General Court Martial of the Maryland line, held by order of Brigadier General Gist, March 28th. 1780, Major Deane President, Mr. Edmiston,[58] Waggon Master of the Maryland Division appeared, charged with, "Defrauding the waggoners of said division by neglecting to pay them for the month of August when he had drawn money for that purpose," and plead "Not guilty." The Court after considering the charge against Mr. Edmiston the evidence and his defence are of opinion he is not guilty and therefore do acquit him.

The Commander in Chief approves the sentence.

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 3, 1780.

Gentn: I had Yesterday afternoon the Honor to receive your Letter of the 30th of March, and agreeable to your request I inclose a permit for the Goods in charge of Captain Bowman.[59] This mode of obtaining supplies is certainly justifiable, from the unhappy situation of our affairs and the necessity of having them; but at the same time, for reasons which will readily occur to the Board, I very much wish that the business could have been conducted without an interference on my part.[60]

[58] This name appears as Samuel Edminson, Deputy Wagonmaster General, on a return of July 31, 1779.

[59] Capt. Nathaniel Bowman, of the Second New Jersey Regiment, who commanded the guard escorting blankets and stores from Squan, N. J.

[60] The Board of War had managed to import some 2,000 blankets and other stores for the Army from New York City, but the inhabitants of Jersey were suspicious and threatened to interfere with the transportation.

On April 3 Gov. William Livingston wrote to Washington respecting these blankets and clothing, inclosing a letter of March 30 from Abraham Clark. The inhabitants of

With respect to the supplies which the Board have it in contemplation to procure by the way of the North River, nothing occurs to me to advise, which would either facilitate or effectually secure their transportation to our posts, or which would certainly keep the matter a secret after they arrived. It appears to me however, that it will be necessary for the Board as they have observed, to communicate the Affair to the Commanding Officer of the Highland posts, under restrictions of secrecy, with any circumstances, such as the time when the Vessel or Vessels may probably arrive, a description of them, of any Signals which may have been concerted &c, which may enable him the better to act upon the occasion. The Vessel or Vessels will probably approach our posts with a Flag in nature of a truce. Our lowest post on the River is at King's ferry, and if the Commanding Officer could have her or them boarded there, by a prudent, discreet Officer apprized of the business, the importance of keeping it a secret, with a permit to run her up to Newburg and land and store the Goods at once, it would best prevent the affair becoming a matter of notoriety. After passing Kings ferry he might haul down his flag and send a Boat a head with a line to the Commanding Officer above to inform him of the Vessels

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New Jersey had learned that the goods were of British manufacture and were planning to seize them under the law. Livingston's and Clark's letters are in the *Washington Papers*. An undated and unfinished draft of a letter to Governor Livingston, in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison, is in the *Washington Papers* under date of April 3. There is some doubt that it was ever finished or sent, as the subject was a delicate one, and Washington may have thought that the less there was on record the better: "I have been favoured with your Excellency's Letter of today, with Mr. Clarke's to which it refers. I received a Letter yesterday Evening from the Board of War on the same subject, which gave me the first information I had with respect to the Blankets at Squan. I very sincerely wish that they could have been transported from thence, without the least interference on my part. From the necessity of the case I have forwarded the Board a permit and hope they will be safe. It is a painful consideration that the situation of our Supplies in this instance is such as it is, and it is the more so, as I fear we have neither money nor credit to procure them where we would of choice. Cloathing and Covering must be had now from the Enemy's post if they are not to be obtained elsewhere and it would have been a lucky circumstance if the. . . ."

arrival, that she might not be stopped at West point. I also think it might be expedient for the Board by a private Letter to communicate the Affair to Governor Clinton, who in case it should leak out, will endeavour I am persuaded to prevent the circulation, and if it cannot be done, he will give the business a proper turn, so as to prevent jealousies and uneasiness. I fear there will be some difficulty in the Vessel's passing by Fort Washington or a little above, as the Enemy generally have a Ship of War or some Gallies stationed there; but these circumstances being known I presume to the persons employed in the business, they will of course take every practicable precaution to elude them. I have the Honor etc.[61]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Tuesday, April 4, 1780.

Parole Qualify. Countersigns Refugees, Recruits.

The proper season being arrived, it is to be hoped the weather will soon admit of a regular course of manœuvring. The regulations established by Congress for the "Order and discipline of the troops," are so instructive and at the same time so simple and easy, that no officer, emulous of being acquainted with his duty and who will devote a reasonable portion of his time to informing himself can fail to acquire a competent knowledge. The General flatters himself that every officer will exert himself to this end, conscious that the want of such knowledge will not *not* only be highly disreputable, but may be productive of fatal consequences at some important moment. Commanding officers of Corps are immediately to put their new and undisciplined men in training, and see that the business is conducted conformable to the regulations. All battalion officers,

[61] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

to captains inclusively are, without loss of time, to provide themselves with Espontoons, they are to apply in the first instance to the Quarter Master General for such as may be in his possession, and if not furnished there, to the Field Commissary of Military Stores. Those who have been already supplied by the public, and are now destitute, are to provide themselves.

None are to mount guard or go on detachment without being armed with Espontoons, to which the officers of the day will be particularly attentive; nor after a reasonable time being allowed to procure them, is any officer to appear with his regiment under arms, without an Espontoon, unless he can shew that he has not been able to obtain one.

For the execution of this order the Commandants of regiments will be responsible.

To BARON DE KALB

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 4, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have, in consequence of the opinion of the last Council of War, left it with Congress finally to determine upon the march of the Maryland division to the Southward. That no time may be lost in the transportation of the troops, should Congress agree in sentiment with the Council, I am to desire you to proceed immediately to Philada., and if you find, upon your arrival there, that the troops are to move, concert with the Board of War, the Commissary and Quarter Master General the necessary arrangements for their provision and accommodation. But should it be determined that the march of the Body of Men alluded to is, at this time, either inexpedient or unnecessary, you will be pleased, after compleating your private Business, to return to your command in the Army. If you proceed to the Southward, I wish you a safe and expeditious march and

every success that you can possibly desire as I am with very great Respect etc.[62]

To JOHN BEATTY

April 4, 1780.

Sir: You will be pleased to signify to Major Harnage and Captain Hawker of the 62nd. British Regt. my permission for them to repair to New-York on their paroles, and take the usual and proper steps on the occasion.

Mr. Loring the British Commissary of prisoners is to send you out a writing declaritive on the part of the enemy that no chaplain belonging to the American Army when taken shall be considered as prisoners of war but immediately released. As an interchange of writings is to take place between you and Mr. Loring, you will send me his and a draught of the one you mean to return him, that both may be examined before they are confirmed by a mutual interchange. I am etc.

P. S. Should Harnage and Hawker come by land to New-York it will be necessary to give him a route, by the way of Kings-bridge, in order to avoid as much as possible the army. If there is any flag vessel coming to New-York it will be a good opportunity should this mode be preferred.

I have received your letter of the 3rd inst. You have my leave of absence to go to Philadelphia.[63]

To DEPUTY GOVERNOR JABEZ BOWEN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 4, 1780.

Sir: I have been honored with yours of the 20th: ulto. informing me of the necessity of detaining Lieut. Chapin[64] of

[62] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[63] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry.

[64] Lieut. Seth Chapin, of Sherburne's Additional Continental regiment. He resigned in April, 1780.

Colo. Sherburne's Regt. a few days beyond the limitation of his furlough.

The intelligence from Bilboa, which you were pleased to communicate is of a very disagreeable nature, and if true in its extent, may be followed by serious consequences. It however appears that the spanish ships made a most gallant resistance.[65]

I shall give directions to Major Perkins[66] respecting the removal of the Continental Artillery and Stores to Springfield. I have the honor etc.[67]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 4, 1780.

Dear Sir: Immediately upon the Rect. of your Excellency's favor of the 22d ulto., I desired Brigadier General Huntington to send as many Officers, as could possibly be spared from the Connecticut line, to take your instructions relative to the Business of recruiting. The number, from our circumstances at this time, will fall infinitely short of your Excellency's requisition, but you may be assured every expedient has been fallen upon, to make it as large as possible. Not having seen a Copy of your late law, I have not been able to inform the Officers going upon the recruiting service, to what emoluments they will be intitled, to compensate them for their trouble and necessary and unavoidable Expences. The travelling Charges only of a subaltern Officer to and from Connecticut, at this time, will amount to nearly his year's pay. I make no doubt but the state

[65] "We just hear by a Vessell from Bilbo in a short Passage of the Defeat of the Spanish Squadron of seven Sails of the line, off Gibralber. They weir attacked by Twelve British. Their was 4 Spanish Sunk. Two taken and one made her escape on the other side 2 British sunk. This must put an end to the Sige for the present."

[66] Maj. William Perkins, of the Third Continental Artillery. Heitman states that he was discharged in November, 1779.

[67] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

will take the matter into consideration, and make a reasonable provision, if it has not been already done.

I hope the endeavours of your State, and of every other in the Union, to compleat their quotas of Troops, will be attended with the desired success, than which nothing will contribute more to put an end to the Contest in which we are engaged, and which, from its weight, bears hard upon our Abilities to continue it. I am etc.[68]

To JUAN DE MIRALLES

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 4, 1780.

Sir: I have been favored with your respective letters of the 14th and 22d of last month.

For some time past the arrangements of the enemy at New-York and in their shipping, have looked towards another embarkation of troops and my recent intelligence on this subject is strongly confirmative of the former. The troops said to be destined to this embarkation may be calculated at about 2500 including cavalry. The general report is that they are intended for the Southward.

From the effects of the storm on the fleet which sailed with Gen Sir Henry Clinton, and the inactivity of the enemy since their arrival in Carolina, it would appear that military succours were thought necessary to the success of their operations; and that the present embarkation at New-York is designed to co-operate at least in the first instance with Sir Henry Clinton. I thought it expedient to give you this information as the knowledge of any new addition of force in that quarter may have an influence on the suggested movements of his Catholic majesty's arms in the Floridas. I am much obliged to you for

[68] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

the present you have sent us and cannot but express my sense of your polite letter of the 15th. of last month. Mrs. Washington begs you would receive her thanks on the same occasion, and desires me to offer you her best compliments. I am &c.[69]

To COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 5, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. yours of the 28th: March. As the Court Martial on Docr. Shippen will be under the necessity of adjourning for a few Weeks, it is lucky that you did not set out. You shall have notice of the time of their meeting again, which I imagine will suit that of your attendance upon Mrs. Moylan to Jersey. In my letter of the 27th: March, I informed you of what preparations were making for equipping the Cavalry.

Lt. Colo. Temple, who goes to your Regt. was here a few days ago, but was under the necessity of returning to Virginia on account of his private concerns. I think it probable that he will bring on some Recruits for the Regt.

Mrs. Washington joins me in Compliments to Mrs. Moylan and in condolence on your late misfortune.[70] I am &c.

P. S. The Court Martial is adjourned to the 15 May you will therefore come down about that time if no material duty in the line of your command should prevent you.[71]

To COLONEL AZARIAH DUNHAM

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 5, 1780.

Sir: By a return made to me this day by the Asst. Commy. of Issues, I find that there are not more than four days Meat in the

[69] The draft is in the writing of James McHenry. The last paragraph was a separate letter to Miralles written a little later this same day, but here joined in one letter. Miralles had sent lemon juice, raisins, cakes of chocolate, sugar, and almonds.

[70] A still-born child.

[71] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Magazines. This is a circumstance so alarming, that I request you to make me an immediate return of the quantity of Meat within your district, more particularly of what is within a short distance of Camp, and I must further request you to make use of every exertion to have it brought forward. The necessity of this measure speaks for itself. Our supply of Flour being very scanty, I must desire you to still pay an attention to that Article and suffer the Magazine of Bread to fail, by turning your endeavours towards the supply of Meat. I am &c.[72]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 5, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have lately been concerting measures with Governor Livingston for the arrangement and disposition of the Militia of this State, in case the enemy, thinking to take advantage of the reduction of our numbers, by the expiration of the times of service of our troops and from other Causes, should move out against us. Should such an event take place, I would wish that the commanding Officers of the Militia of the County of Orange in your State had orders to assemble at Clarks town and Kakeate to watch the motions of the enemy's Right and to give them all possible annoyance. I make no doubt but General Howe has already concerted a plan with your Excellency for assembling the Militia of the upper part of the state at the shortest notice should the Enemy operate suddenly agt. the posts in the Highlands. Another embarkation is certainly preparing at New York supposed to be a reinforcement for General Clinton; but as a measure of this kind will more than probable occasion a further detachment from this Army, the force remaining in New York will be proportionably stronger than ours. Our latest accounts from Charlestown are of the 4th: of March, tho' it

[72] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman

seems from a publication in Rivingtons paper that the enemy had made no material progress upon the 11th, at which time General Robertson left South Carolina.

I was duly honored with your Excellency's favor's of the 21st. Feby. and 10th. March. I have the honor etc.[73]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Wednesday, April 5, 1780.

Parole Remember. Countersigns Secrecy, Silence.

The Picket guard at Head Quarters will be relieved 'till further orders daily, by Lord Stirling's, Genl. St. Clair's and General Clinton's divisions, in rotation. The officers are not to be absent from this guard during their tour of duty; They are to receive their orders respecting the disposition &c. from Majr. Gibbs. This is to be considered as a standing order until countermanded. Lord Stirling's division furnishes the Picket tomorrow.

All General and Staff officers not immediately connected with the line, are requested to inform the Adjutant General, what guards, fatigue parties, artificers or assistants they have, or may want, from the army, that they may be furnished on or before the 8th. instant, as all troops belonging to the line, however employed, will be called in immediately after that day.

At a division General Court Martial held March 30th. by order of Major General Lord Stirling of which Majr. Edwards[74] was President: Thomas Brown of the 2nd. New Jersey regiment was brought before the court charged with "Desertion" and plead guilty. The Court on considering the charge against Thomas Brown and finding him to be an old offender,

[73] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The letter sent is said to be in the New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.

[74] Maj. Evan Edwards, of the Eleventh Pennsylvania Regiment. He was transferred to the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1781, and retired in January, 1783.

guilty of repeated desertion, do unanimously sentence him to be hanged by the neck until he is dead.

The Commander in Chief approves the sentence.

To CORNET PEREGRINE FITZHUGH

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 5, 1780.

Dear Sir: Since you left Camp, Genl. Phillips has sollicited the parole or exchange of two Officers of the Convention for Mr. Randolph and you. I could not, consistent with the practice I have uniformly observed of giving a preference, whether for parole or final exchanges, to those who have been longest in captivity, consent to this proposal, so far as it respected you in its full extent. But I have desired that Genl. Phillips may be informed that the Officers required by him shall be sent in; that Mr. Randolph and you shall remain out for a limited time; and that upon your return the two oldest prisoners of ours of equal Ranks shall be allowed to come out. I have limited your times to the 15th. July next. This I conceived the best method of giving you an opportunity of remaining somewhat longer with your friends, without materially injuring the rights of your Brother prisoners. Inclosed is the paroles required of you by the British Commy. of Prisoners. You will be pleased to sign one Copy and forward it to me, that it may be transmitted to New York. I am &c.[75]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Thursday, April 6, 1780.

Parole Syntax. Countersigns Tanner, Thrasher.

At a General Court Martial whereof Major General Howe was President, held on the 1st. of June last at Middle Brook

[75] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

and afterwards at Morristown from the 23rd. of December to the 26th. of January, in consequence of a resolution of the Honorable the Congress, for the trial of Major General Arnold on the following Articles contained in the proceedings of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania at the City of Philadelphia the 3rd. of February 1779. Vizt.,

First. "That while in the Camp of General Washington at Valley Forge last spring, he gave permission to a Vessel belonging to persons then voluntarily residing in this City, with the enemy, and of disaffected characters to come into a Port of the United States without the knowledge of the authority of the State or of the Commander in Chief tho' then present.

2nd. In having shut up the Shops and stores on his arrival in the City, so as even to prevent officers of the army from purchasing, while he privately made considerable purchases for his own benefit as is alledged and believed.

3rd. In imposing menial offices upon the sons of Freemen of this State, when called for by the desire of Congress, to perform militia duty, and when remonstrated to hereupon, justifying himself in writing upon the ground of having power so to do. For that when a citizen assumed the character of a soldier, the former was intirely lost in the latter, and that it was the duty of the militia to obey every order of his Aids (not a breach of the laws and constitution) as his (the General's) without judging of the propriety of them.

4th. The appropriating the waggons of this State, when called forth upon a special emergency last autumn, to the transportation of private property and that of Persons who voluntarily remained with the enemy last winter, and were deemed disaffected to the Interests and Independence of America."

The Court passed the following sentence:

The Court having considered the several charges exhibited against General Arnold, the evidence produced on the trial and his defence are of opinion with respect to the first charge: That he gave permission for a vessel to leave a port in possession of the enemy, to enter into a port in the United States; which permission circumstanced as he was, they are clearly of opinion he had no right to give, being a breach of article 5th., section 18th. of the rules and articles of war.

Respecting the 2nd. charge, that altho' it has been fully proved that the shops and stores were shut by General Arnold's orders on his arrival at Philadelphia, they are of opinion that he was justifiable in the order, by the resolution of Congress of the 5th. of June 1778, and His Excellency, the Commander in Chief's instructions of the 18th. of June 1778. And with respect to the latter part of the same charge, "The making considerable purchases while the shops and stores were shut," they are clearly of opinion that it is entirely unsupported and they do fully acquit General Arnold of it.

They do acquit General Arnold of the third charge.

Respecting the 4th. charge, it appears to the court that General Arnold made application to the Deputy Quarter Master General to supply him with waggons to remove property then in imminent danger from the enemy; that Waggons were supplied him by the Deputy Quarter Master General on this application which had been drawn from the state of Pennsylvania for the public service; and it also appears that General Arnold intended this application as a private request, and that he had no design of employing the waggons otherwise than at this private expence, nor of defrauding the public, nor injuring or impeding the public service; but considering the delicacy attending the high station in which the General acted,

and that requests from him might operate as commands, they are of opinion the request was imprudent and improper and that therefore it ought not to have been made.

The Court in consequence of their determinations respecting the first and last charges exhibited against Majr. General Arnold, do sentence him to receive a reprimanded from His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

The Honorable the Congress have been pleased to confirm the foregoing sentence by the following resolution lately received.

In Congress, February 12th., 1780.

Congress resumed the consideration of the proceedings of the court martial on the trial of Major General Arnold, and the same being gone through; A motion was made . . . that the sentence of the court be confirmed.

The Commander in Chief would have been much happier in an occasion of bestowing commendations on an officer who has rendered such distinguished services to his Country as Major General Arnold; but in the present case a sense of duty and a regard to candor oblige him to declare, that he considers his conduct in the instance of the permit as peculiarly reprehensible, both in a civil and military view, and in the affair of the waggons as "Imprudent and improper."

The Honorable the Congress having been pleased by their proclamation of the 11th. of last month to appoint wednesday the 22nd. instant to be set apart and observed as a day of Fasting Humiliation and Prayer for certain special purposes therein mentioned, and recommended that there should be no labor or recreations on that day; The same is to be observed accordingly thro'out the Army and the different Chaplins will prepare discourses suited to the several objects enjoined by the said Proclamation.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 7, 1780.

Sir: I have the Honor to acquaint Your Excellency, that I have just been advised of the sailing of the Detachment from New York, which I mentioned in my Letter of the 2d as being about to embark. The intelligence I have received upon the subject, is contained in the following Extract of a Letter from Colo. Dayton, dated the 6th at Elizabeth Town. "I have just received certain intelligence of the sailing of the British fleet out at Sandy Hook yesterday morning. They consisted of Ten Ships and Seven Brigs; the Troops that my Informant knew to be on board, were the 42d Regiment; One Battalion of the Guards; The Anspach Regiment; Lord Rawdon's brigade and Simcoe's foot; but there is not any Horse gone on board. They are convoyed by the Rainbow, the Delight and the Swift brig, and they expect to be met at Sea by the Galetea and Thames Frigates, which left New York last week with the packet, which they were to convoy clear off this Coast.

My Informant seems positive the Troops sailed, are bound to Charles Town, as he says he is positive Sir Henry Clinton's heavy baggage is all gone in the Fleet. Five Thousand Men it is said in New York, are now under marching orders, but their destination uncertain. It is generally said in New York, that only about Two Thousand Troops have gone in the Fleet."[76] The Maryland and Delaware Troops, which I advised Congress would be the case, have been under marching Orders ever since the 2d; but by a Letter of that date just received from the Quarter Master General, in answer to one I wrote him upon the occasion the 26th Ulto, requesting to know how far he would be able to make provision for marching a Detach-

[76] The original letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

ment of Troops to the Southward he has informed me, that from the circumstances of his department, he could not move it. I have thought it my duty to communicate this, and that Congress may have every information with respect to the point and of our prospects in general of taking the Field so far as it may depend on this Department. I beg leave to lay before them Copies of these Letters and of One I wrote Genl Greene on the 2d upon the subject of the Detachment in contemplation to be sent to the Southward.[77] Indeed Our Affairs now, both in this line and in that of provisions are in the most delicate and alarming situation. I have the Honor etc.

P S. I duly received Your Excellency's Dispatches of the 29th Ulto.[78]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 7, 1780.

Gentn: I take the liberty to transmit the inclosed letter for Colo. Blane[79] to Your care, as I do not know with certainty where he is. It is on the state of our provision supplies, which is most alarming. By the Issuing Commissary's Return of to day and the Return of the State Superintendent Colo Dunham. It appears that the whole of the provision of the meat kind which they both have in and in collecting distance of Camp, and supposing the Troops to have a good part of the last issues on hand, will only afford a scanty supply for Four days. Nor can I find from any inquiries I have made, that there is any certain or even a probable prospect of getting more in season. The Issuing

[77] Copies of these letters are filed with Washington's letter in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*. The drafts of Washington's letters to Greene, of March 26 and April 2, and the original letter of Greene to Washington, April 2, are in the *Washington Papers*.

[78] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The letter was read in Congress on April 10.

[79] Col. Ephraim Blaine.

Commissary Mr Gamble has none but what he has on hand nor Colo Dunham any that he knows of, besides what is comprehended in the Return, of which I inclose a Copy. The 20 Cattle and the 11030 lb of beef in this are considered as part of the supplies for Four days. Mr Gamble the Issuing Commissary, on the 17th Ulto. supposed the quantity of meat then on hand, might by a Scanty and œconomical allowance be extended to serve for about Forty days; but his supposition it appears now was very illy founded. The mistake he says arose from his calculating on the number of Casks in which it was instead of the meat itself, which had been killed from necessity to save forage and prevent the Cattle from starving during the severity of the Weather, and which being intended for immediate use was put up very lightly, and fell very short of the complement in issuing it, which Casks of the same size otherwise packed generally yield. Another cause for the deficiency is, some of it proved to be too bad to use, from its leanness and owing to its being frozen when put up. Our prospect of bread for the present is not quite so alarming but this too will require the greatest exertions. I am convinced the Honble. Board will do every thing in their power to promote relief, and I shall only add that I have the Honor etc.[80]

To COLONEL ZEBULON BUTLER

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 7, 1780.

Sir: I received Yesterday your letter of the 2d Instant, and I am extremely sorry to find that parties of the Enemy have appeared and committed hostilities in the neighbourhood of

[80] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

An "Extract from an Estimate of Stores on hand" follows this letter, and is a duplicate of the information in the first paragraph of Washington's letter to Col. Ephraim Blaine, Apr. 7, 1780, *q. v.*

Wyoming. It is not in my power to afford any Troops from the army and I should hope those already there and the Inhabitants will be able to repel at least incursions by light parties. It was my intention as I informed you that you should join your regiment immediately after your return; however I am induced from the face of things, to let you continue where you are for the present and you will remain till further orders. Should further depredations and mischiefs be committed by the Enemy, you will take occasion to inform me of them. I am &c.[81]

To COLONEL EPHRAIM BLAINE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 7, 1780.

Sir: I find myself under the painful necessity of writing to you on the subject of our Provision supplies. The inclosed Return of to day comprehends the whole the Issuing Commissary has. Colo Dunham according to a Return of th[e 6th] of the stores under his direction, makes the whole of the meat kind amount only to 218 Barrels of Pork 20 Cattle and 11,030 lb of Beef; the last in the neighbourhood of Camp; the Cattle about 40 miles off in Sussex and the Pork distributed in not less than six places from thirty to sixty miles distance, and without any good prospect of its being brought on, or at least in season. This is all the meat I can hear of, both in and out of Camp, except some Pork said to be at Burlington, the quantity unknown, so that from the best estimate that can be formed we have only a certainty of supplies for four days, taking into the account the 11,030 Beef in the vicinity of Camp and the 20 Cattle and supposing part of the meat last Issued to the Troops may still remain in their hands. It is possible that some part

[81] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade. From a photograph of the original in the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society (F. Dorrance, director), Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

of the Pork may be got in, in the course of that time, but if this should fortunately be the case, it can be of little avail. I have said nothing on the subject of Bread because the prospect as to this for the present, is not quite so alarming; but our supplies of this also claim your most active exertions. I shall expect to hear from you and to be informed of the prospects you have and that you will exert every nerve for the Armys relief. I am &c.[82]

To COLONEL AZARIAH DUNHAM

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 7, 1780.

Sir: I have received Your Letter of the 6th. with the Return of the provisions under your direction, and am greatly concerned to find the quantity is so small. I must again from the importance of the subject, entreat your every exertion to have it brought on to Camp as speedily as possible, and that you will use every means in your power to procure and bring on further supplies. The support of the Army requires it in a most essential manner. I am &c.[83]

To CAPTAIN BERNARD WARD[84]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 7, 1780.

Captain Bernard Ward of the Regiment lately commanded by Colo Atlee, having represented to His Excellency the Commander in Chief, that while he was a prisoner of War on Long Island he married and was obliged when exchanged to leave his Wife and the Effects he received with her on account of her

[82] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade. The portion in brackets is supplied from the draft, which is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Dr. A. S. W Rosenbach, of New York City.

[83] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

[84] Of the late Pennsylvania Musket Battalion, commanded by Col. Samuel John Atlee. As captain in the Continental Army, he served to the close of the war.

being ill with the Small pox, and prayed that he might send in a letter by a Flag of truce in order to get Her out with Her Effects. This is to certify that he has obtained his Excellency the Commander in Chief's consent for the same and Mrs Ward has permission to come out with her Cloaths and Other effects; in which however, are not to be included Any Goods or Merchandize for sale.[85]

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, April 7, 1780.

Sir: It is his Excellencys desire that you should remove Mr. Nicholas Dean from his present Quarters, to Easton, or any other distant place; and that if you cannot contrive to make him pay, for his board since his stay in this neighbourhood, that you would do it yourself. I am &c.[86]

To GOVERNOR RICHARD CASWELL

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 7, 1780.

Sir: Your Excellency will have received I presume before this, a transcript of an Act of Congress of the 25th of February, calling on the several States for specific quantities of provision, Rum and Forage for the Army, and directing the Articles of Supplies to be collected and deposited at such places in each of them, as should be judged most convenient by me. With respect to the places of deposit for the supplies to be furnished by your State, I beg leave to acquaint Your Excellency, that I have not such a competent knowledge of the Country as to[87]

[85] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "Rob: H: Harrison, Secy."

[86] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "R. K. M[eade]."

[87] At this point the draft has the following insert, which is noted as having been in the letter of April 15 to Gov. John Rutledge: "arrange the business with Your Excellency, nor indeed of the dependence there may be on the State by that of South Carolina."

undertake to fix them myself. I shall therefore write to the Commanding Officer in the Southern department on the subject and desire him to determine on the places, which appear to him most eligible relatively to the present and probable train of Southern operations and to make the earliest communication on the point to Your Excellency. In the mean time the supplies may be providing, and although I cannot undertake to fix on the general places of deposit for the reasons I have mentioned, I beg leave to add that it appears to me essential, that a part of the flour and forage should be collected as soon as it can be done, at proper Stages on the usual route through the State for the marching of Troops to or from the more Northern Ones, as it may be wanted for the Succours going and which may occasionally move to the Southward. I mention nothing with respect to beef, as Cattle I presume can be easily furnished to answer every occasional demand of this sort. I have the Honor etc.[88]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Friday, April 7, 1780.[89]

Parole Uncle. Countersigns Toby, Trim.

The Main Guard is to be relieved daily by divisions in rotation 'till further orders, and care must be taken that all troops warned for duty be furnished with provisions before they go on parade. Lord Stirlings division furnishes the Main Guard tomorrow.

[88] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

This same letter, with the variation noted above, was sent to Gov. John Rutledge, of South Carolina on April 15, for which there is no separate draft in the *Washington Papers*.

[89] "April 7. To Cash pd. Colo. Meade for the Genl. and suite &c dinner at Springfield as pr. bill £27: 7: 6."—*Headquarters Account Book*.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Saturday, April 8, 1780.

Parole Umbo. Countersigns Valor, Veteran.

The Commissaries are desired to send what hides and tallow they may have on hand to the Commissary of hides in Morristown, as there is an immediate necessity for those articles to be sent in, in order to their being taken care of.

*To JOHN MITCHELL

Morris-town, April 8, 1780.

Dr. Sir: Your letter of the 4th. did not reach this place till late last Night; some particular engagements this morning prevented my attending to the contts. of it and when I came to enquire for the Express in the afternoon behold! he was gone; the Gentn. in the Office viewing him in the light of a common Express asking as usual for Phila. dispatches of wch. there were none ready dismissed him; this is the cause of his returning without my answer.

From your description of the two Chariots I prefer that wch. is in the hands of Mr. Brinkhurst on acct. of the size although it will take longer time to finish it. I shall thank you therefore for engaging it for me, for requesting dispatch, and when convenient for yr. attending a little to the execution. The painting I hope will be well done, and in a tasty stile with respect to color (in wch. I have no particular choice) Though I prefer a plain Chariot it may not be amiss to Ornament the Mouldings with a light airy gilding; this will add little to the expence and much to the appearance. The Harness I would have stout and strong, at the same time neatly made, Ornamented and of good leather.

By the last Post I wrote to Mr. Lund Washington respecting Specie but the Workman will meet with no disappointment, although there should be a little delay in my receiving it from home.[90] The pocket money wch. Mrs Washington has, and some I can borrow here, added to what you are kind enough to offer, will enable me to pay the full sum at any hour even if I should not receive the needful from home by the time the Chariot is ready for delivery.

The Several Articles from Don Juan came safe. the Mop, Jug, and Jarrs are, it seems, left somewhere on the road. If it is for an Earthen, or Queens ware bowl the 180 Dollars is asked, I shall decline the purchase for I think it is high time to check such extravagance. I am etc.

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 9, 1780.

Gentlemen: I was the evening before the last, honored with yours of the 31st: ulto. and 3d. instant, the latter inclosing the Copy of a letter from Major Lee, to the Board, on the subject of promoting Captains Peyton and McLane of his Corps to the Rank of Majors, and assigning the reasons on which his propositions were founded. In January last, Major Lee transmitted to me a letter from Capt. McLane to him upon the same subject. A Copy of that letter and my answer, you will

[90] In Conway's *George Washington and Mount Vernon* (*Memoirs of the Long Island Historical Society*, Brooklyn, 1889), vol IV, p. lxix, is an extract of Washington's letter (Apr. 15, 1780) to Lund Washington respecting this payment, as follows:

"I have ordered a chariot to be made in Phila. The price £210 in specie, or Paper equivalent, have you any ways or means of coming at the former by your traffic with Mr. Hooe or other? The difference between specie and Paper in Phila. some little time ago was 60 or 70, I have heard it is now 50, but if you could engage the first, that is specie, by your produce I should think it much more eligible than to do it with Paper, not only because the latter is so fluctuating but because it must (in the nature of things) grow better if it continues to pass. . . . Things in this quarter are nearly in the situation as when I last wrote. Mrs. Washington joins me in best wishes to you and yrs."

find inclosed, which will inform you of my sentiments at that time, so far as Capt. McLane was interested. Although the number of Infantry has been since increased to three Companies, I do not see the necessity of increasing the number of Field Officers by new creations. It is true the Corps of Light Infantry were formed and Officered in the manner Major Lee mentions, but as they were a particular Body of Men, detached from the line for a temporary service, they were officered differently and more fully than permanent Corps in order, as the duty was thought a very honorable one, that the Officers of every line might have an equal opportunity of distinguishing themselves. By the Regulations of the Army no Regiment is to have more than two Field Officers, and we are reducing them to that number as often as circumstances admit.

One of the reasons alledged by Major Lee, for the promotion of the Gentlemen in question, will be found, upon investigation, to operate differently from what he supposes, at least so far as it respects Capt. Peyton. It is that in which he says they will find themselves upon a junction with the Southern Army, in the course of service, under the command of Gentlemen whose superiors they once were. So far from this being the case, that Capt. Peyton would, if promoted, command several Officers in late Blands and Baylors Regiments who were Captains when he was a Subaltern in Blands. I cannot speak so particularly of Capt. McLane who is an old Captain.

There is another reason which militates generally against the adoption of Major Lee's plan, which is the additional jealousy which it would create in the 4 established Regiments of Cavalry, the officers of which have long complained of their Corps being restrained from augmenting their numbers to their establishment, while a separate Corps has grown by degrees to a command more respectable than any Regiment of Horse in the service.

As I have been consulted upon this occasion, I have thought it my duty to give my opinion candidly, not influenced by a wish to retard the promotion of Gentlemen, of whose merits I entertain a very high opinion, but by an endeavour to promote that harmony throughout the line of the Army, which has been too often interrupted by a variety of causes, and without which, the service is rendered extremely disagreeable to all concerned.

Upon a consideration of the consequences which might result from issuing a proclamation offering pardons to all deserters from the Virginia line who will surrender themselves at Charlottesville by a given time,[91] I am of opinion that it would at present rather tend to encourage future desertions than bring in any number of those who have already gone off. For, as the southern service is a disagreeable one, those Men who yet remain in Virginia, and those of other States, who may be ordered to that quarter, might be thereby encouraged to desert, in hopes that the same line of mercy might be also extended to them. Indeed I have never found that the offer of pardons to deserters upon voluntary surrender has been attended with any substantial advantages. It may perhaps be politic to try the experiment some time hence, but I should think it had best be deferred untill whatever detachments may be ordered to the southward have gone forward.

I have given orders for Major Lees Corps to commence their march as soon as possible, and have referred the commanding Officer to the Board for the Route.

Be pleased to forward the inclosed by the first opportunity to Colo. Wood at Charlotteville. I have the honor etc.[92]

[91] The idea of a proclamation of pardon to deserters of the Virginia line came from Col. James Wood to the Board of War, who referred it to Washington.

[92] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To SIR JAMES JAY

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 9, 1780.

Dear Sir: The liquid with which you were so obliging as to furnish me for the purpose of private correspondence is exhausted; and as I have found it very useful, I take the liberty to request you will favour me with a further supply. I have still a sufficiency of the materials for the counterparts on hand. Should you not have by you the necessary ingredients, if they are to be procured at any of the Hospitals within your reach, I would wish you to apply for them in my name. I hope you will excuse the trouble I give you on this occasion.[93] With great regard etc.[94]

To COLONEL JAMES WOOD

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 9, 1780.

Sir: I have duly received your favour of the 16th of March with its inclosures. The letters from General Hamilton have been sent in.

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[93] Jay replied (April 13): "I have the honor of yours of the 9th. instant and I do myself the pleasure to send you the medicine you desire, in a little box, which I hope you will receive with this letter. I wish I could furnish you with a greater quantity, because I am afraid you may be too sparing of the little you will receive; whereas you might perhaps derive greater benefit from it, were it to be used more frequently. This little however is all that remains of what I brought with me from Europe. I have now the principal ingredients for the composition by me, and the rest may be procured: but the misfortune is, that I have no place where a little apparatus may be erected for preparing it. The composition requires some assistance from Chemistry; and our house is so small, and so well inhabited, that there is not a corner left where a little brick furnace, which a Mason could build in two hours time, can be placed. A log hut for the purpose might be soon run up, but it is also out of my power to effect this, Neither bricks, boards nor lime are to be purchased here, nor a Carpenter nor Mason to be had without great difficulty, if at all. I beg you will not infer from hence that I would rather decline the undertaking. So far from that being the case, if you shall think it worth while, and will only direct Col. Hay to furnish the workman, and other requisites, I shall soon have the satisfaction of sending you such a supply that you may not only use it freely yourself, but even spare a little to a friend, if necessary, without the apprehension of future want." Jay's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[94] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

There are such jealousies prevailing in the country, against the British officers in captivity, and they really take so much pains whenever they go to debauch the minds of those they converse with and with so much success, that I do not think myself at liberty to grant the permission requested for the valetudinary officers of the Convention troop[95] If you should think the indulgence they ask absolutely necessary, I wish you to address yourself to the Board of War, informing them of my having declined the matter and my reasons for it. Indeed in all cases of a similar kind I would wish application to be made to the Board. A parole exchange has been agreed upon for Lieutenant Lord Torphicken of the 62d. British Regiment and Second Lieutenant Hadden of the Artillery; and an actual one of Mr. Robert Hoaksley[96] Waggon Master and Nathaniel Collyer Assistant Dy. Commissary. You will give these Gentlemen passports to Elizabeth Town to receive further directions there from the Commissary of Prisoners. A direct Route should be marked out to them, avoiding Philadelphia and the army. I am &c.

P. S. When any letters are presented to you which you think exceptionable or two pointed I should be glad you would make the objection on the spot. This will save references which may sometimes be embarrassing.[97]

To THE OFFICER COMMANDING LEE'S CORPS

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 9, 1780.

Sir: I have received Capt. Rudolphs favr. of the 2d. Inst. I have to request you not to lose a moment in commencing your march to South Carolina after your Corps is ready. You

[95] The British officers wished to spend the summer at the Virginia warm springs in Augusta and Berkeley.

[96] Wagon Master General to the Convention troops.

[97] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

will take your Route from the Board of War. I wish you a safe and expeditious march and am etc.[98]

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 9, 1780.

Sir: I have had the Honor to receive Your Excellency's Letter of the 4th with the Inclosures. I had several days previous to the receipt of it taken into consideration the Act of Congress of the 25th of Feby and fixed on the places in Your State which appeared proper for collecting the Stores at, as Your Excellency will find by the Letter which accompanies this,[99] but was induced to defer the communication till now, as I thought something possibly might cast up at the southward or some material movement or demonstration take place in this quarter, which might assist in determining with respect to the places of Deposit with more propriety. Every degree of economy in the expenditure of our Stores will be certainly necessary, as You observe and I am persuaded General Greene will concur with You in any measures which can be adopted consistently to produce this in the instance You mention. I have the Honor etc.[1]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Sunday, April 9, 1780.

Parole Urbanity. Countersigns Wag, Warble.

Lieutenant Edwards[2] of Colonel Jackson's regiment is appointed Deputy Judge Advocate in the Army of the United States and is to be respected as such.

[98] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[99] See Circular to the States, Mar. 26, 1780, *ante*.

[1] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

[2] Lieut. Thomas Edwards, of Jackson's Additional Continental regiment. He was Deputy Judge Advocate; Judge Advocate of the Continental Army; in October, 1782; served to November, 1783.

A General Court Martial of the line is to sit tomorrow at the new store room in Morristown for the trial of such Prisoners as shall be brought before them. Colonel Livingston[3] is appointed President, Lieut. Col. Huntington[4] and Major C. Stewart[5] are appointed members. Genl. Hands brigade sends one Captain &c.

The commanding officers of brigades and regiments are immediately to call in all soldiers belonging to their respective corps who are upon Extra Service, Guards, Fatigue Parties, Artificers &c., agreeable to general orders of the 5th. instant and who have not been detached by a subsequent general order, except such as are immediately connected with the line, the Commander in Chief's guards, the detachment at Paramus, Artificers employed in the Quarter Master General's department and Colonel Baldwin's corps; Men employed at, public factories by order of the honorable Board of War or the Commander in Chief, and Waiters on General and Staff officers, of which last a special return is to be made to the Adjutant General from each brigade as soon as possible.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Monday, April 10, 1780.

Parole Whereas. Countersigns Why, When.

The President and Members of the General Court Martial of which Brigadier General Hand is President are to exercise their respective duties in the line of the army during the adjournment of the Court.

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[3] Col. James Livingston, of the First Canadian Regiment. He retired in January, 1781.

[4] Lieut Col. Ebenezer Huntington, of Webb's Additional Continental regiment.

[5] Maj. Christopher Stuart (Stewart, Steward), of the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment. He was appointed lieutenant colonel of the Third Pennsylvania Regiment in April, 1780, and retired in January, 1781.

The Commander in Chief having been informed that many suspicious persons are frequently seen lurking in and about camp, directs that officers in general, and more particularly those of the guards, will take up and examine all strangers who are found in camp or in the vicinity and if they have not passes or other credentials from proper authority will send them to the officers of the day for more particular examination, who will either dismiss or confine them as circumstances may require. The importance of suppressing Spies demands the strictest attention.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 10, 1780.

Sir: I do myself the honor of inclosing a New York paper of the 8th: which gives a more particular account of Admiral Rodney's success[6] than any we have yet seen. I cannot but hope that the enemy have dressed it in the most unfavorable Colours for us. I have the honor etc.

P. S. Since my last I have recd. information from New York that another division of transports is watering, and that a further embarkation is talked of.[7]

To WILLIAM ELLERY[8]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 10, 1780.

Sir: I have been honored with yours of the 29th ulto. on the subject of General Greenes request that one of their Regiments might be stationed in the State of Rhode Island. I had, previous

[6] Defeat of the Spanish squadron off Cape St. Vincent, West Indies, in January, 1780.

[7] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[8] Delegate to the Continental Congress from Rhode Island.

to the Recet. of your letter, informed the Governor of the improbability of my being able to comply with his request. The reasons which influenced me then, will naturally suggest themselves to you, when you consider the necessity we shall be under of concentering, as much as possible, our force in this quarter, to make up the reduction occasioned by the expirations of service and by the detachments which we have already made and are about to make to the southward.

It is to be wished that our circumstances would admit of being guarded at every point, and against every possible event, but as that is not the case, we are under the necessity of calling our force to that quarter which will most probably be the scene of Action.

I am obliged by your agreeable communication of Mr. Adams's[9] account of the favorable disposition of the Court of Spain and have the honor to be with great Respect etc.[10]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 10, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favr. dated the 8th. Be pleased to give directions to the Officer commanding at Elizabeth Town to send over a Flag with the prisoners as soon as they arrive there. It may sometimes happen that prisoners who come from a distance may arrive at Elizabeth Town before the Commy. of prisoners can have previous notice, in that case, there will be a necessity for their waiting untill a Flag can be applied for and obtained.

You will take such steps respecting the security of the Boats upon Passaick River as you may think conducive to the safety

[9] John Adams.
[10] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

of the posts, without unnecessarily distressing the owners. But I would not wish Capt. Kennedy's Boat to be taken, while another can be procured for the purpose of a guard Boat. It is true he is in England, but he went thither by permission of the State. I am &c.[11]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, April 10, 1780.

Dr. Sr: The Maryland division will begin their march to the Southward as soon as the means in our power will enable them to do so. I therefore wish you to lose no time in consulting with the Qr. Mr. Genl, as far as it may be necessary for the transportation of the Artillery and stores which is to accompany the Division. I am &c.[12]

To SAMUEL ALLISON[13]

Morris Town, April 10, 1780.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 31st of March representing the ill treatment you had experienced from Lt. Carnes.[14] I assure you I have the utmost abhorrence of any violence offered by an officer to the inhabitants, and shall be always ready to attend to their complaints and grant all the redress in my power.

In the present case it is at your option to obtain satisfaction either from the civil or military law as you think best. If you prefer a civil prosecution, the means are in your own hands,

[11] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by D. W. Richards, of New York City.

[12] The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

[13] Of Burlington, N. J.

[14] Lieut. Patrick Carnes, of Lee's Partisan Light Dragoons. He was made captain in 1780 and served to the close of the war.

and all that I can do is to enjoin the obedience of the officer to the civil Magistrate to prevent irregularity; if you would prefer a military trial, it will take place as soon as the parties and the witnesses arrive. I have fixed upon the 18th instant for the purpose. You will perceive by the inclosed letter to the Commanding Officer of the corps, the directions I have given in either case, that is of a civil or military prosecution; and it remains with you to determine which will be most agreeable to you. If you choose a military trial it will be indispensable that you and your witnesses should attend at this place at the time appointed. I am with esteem etc.[15]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MORDECAI GIST

Head Quarters, April 10, 1780.

Dr Sr: The Maryland division will move to the Southward as speedily as possible. You will therefore be pleased to see the Qr Mr and Commy. immediately that the best and most expeditious means in their power may be used to put the Troops in motion. I wish no unavoidable delay to take place on this occasion. I am &c.

P. S. You will direct the P Ms of the Division to draw pay for the several Regts. to the 1st. Inst. no time should be lost in giving these orders or in the execution of them.[16]

To MAJOR WILLIAM PERKINS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 10, 1780.

Sir: I have been favd. with yours of the 12th: ulto. You are to leave all the Iron Cannon with the Apparatus belonging to them in the State of Rhode Island, and transport all the Brass

[15] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.
[16] The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

Ordnance and the remaining Continental Stores to Springfield. You will be pleased to attend particularly to the Arms which you have heard of in the neighbourhood of Providence. You need not remove the heavy round shot. Should any of the apparatus belonging to the Iron Cannon be the property of the Continent, you are to take Receipts for it from the State, as you are to do for the 1000 lb: of powder to be left by desire of the Governor. You are to apply to the Dy. Qr. Master for assistance in removing the Ordnance and stores to Springfield and upon their being deposited there take Receipts for the Quantity.

After having compleated the removal you are to join the park of Artillery at this Camp or wherever it may be. I am &c.[17]

To THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF LEE'S CORPS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 10, 1780.

Sir: Mr. Samuel Allison of Burlington has complained to me of violences offered to him by Lt Carnes of the corps under your command. I have told him that it is at his option to have recourse for redress either to the civil or military law. If he prefers the first, Lt Carnes must of course submit to the civil magistrate. If the last is chosen, you will arrest Lt Carnes and direct him to repair to Head Quarters by the 18th. instant to take his trial. He will bring with him such witnesses as he thinks essential in his behalf, or it may be better that the depositions of the Witnesses on both sides should be taken before some Magistrate, in presence of both parties Lt Carnes and Mr. Allison. This may save trouble and expense. This letter goes through Mr. Allison who will inform you which of the alternatives he determines upon. I am &c.[18]

[17] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[18] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

To LUND WASHINGTON

Morristown, April 11, 1780.

Dear Sir: As I stand in need of better advice and assistance in the chancery suit depending between Mr. James Mercer and the persons for whom I am acting as attorney, than my own knowledge of these kind of proceedings is capable of affording I laid the papers you forwarded to me relative to this business before Colo. Harrison for his aid.

The memorandums, contained in the form of a letter from him to me, copy of which you have inclosed, I must beg you to comply with literally, and with as much expedition as you can; for it will not be in my power to instruct council at the General Court Bar in this business till I am furnished with such documents as are necessary to his, or their government.

The sum, dates, &ca. of the Certificates from the loan office in Virginia are it seems essentially necessary. In all copies of Transactions much care and attention is necessary as small errors may occasion great delay and may be productive of bad consequences. I have been obliged to run over all the accounts, list of Bonds, and other Papers which you sent me and have made the following observations. That the papers herewith enclosed No. 3 (after excluding *Ramsey* [*sic*] and Thomas for £65. and £54) contains, it is to be presumed a list of the Loudoun Bonds as they are not among the Frederick Debts.

That neither Angus McDonald nor Nathl. Manning, the first for £44 and the other for £71 appear in your list of paid or unpaid Bonds, although they are Debtors by the Frederick account and list, in the sums respectively annexed to their names.

That by the list of Frederick Debts, it would seem as if there had been Bonds taken to the amount of £12.186.19.2 excepting £6.9.0 for the cash recd. at the sale, which added to £1818 the

amount of the Loudoun Sales makes the sum of £14.004.19.2 when by your list of the paid and unpaid Bonds you make them acount to no more than £13.993.1. which falls short £111.19.0 though they ought to be precisely the same. Paper No 4 is the best explanation, and Idea I have of the matter.

That among the Frederick accounts and list of them (no 2) Morgan Alexander stands charged in the sum of £67.12.0 only, whereas in your list of unpaid Bonds he is debted in the sum of £70,14.6. difference £3.2.6. These several matters require explanation, and where there are mistakes, rectification. If in consequence of a former letter you should have written to Mr. James Mercer or Colo. Francis Peyton concerning the Loudoun Bonds you ought to inform them of the mistake as the application must appear a little odd to them.

You are now furnished with the best assistance I can give (without having all the Bonds and any other paper before me) for explaining doubts and rectifying mistakes, and I wish to have what is now required and in the forms desired sent to me as soon as you can. If assistance is requisite hire some body, and charge it to the Estate. I am etc.[19]

To COLONEL GOOSE VAN SCHAICK

Head Quarters, April 11, 1780.

Sir: Major McCrachin[20] formerly of your Regiment having represented to His Excellency the Commander in Chief, that hoping he should be able to continue in the service himself and from a wish to promote it, he was induced in Jany 1777 to inlist into your Regiment a Mulatto Man named William Condo,

[19] The text is from a copy in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress. From the original in the possession of E. P. Lang, of Washington, D. C., in the 1890's.

[20] Maj. Joseph McCracken, of the Fourth New York Regiment. He lost his arm at Monmouth, N. J., in June, 1778; resigned in April, 1780; served subsequently as lieutenant colonel of the New York Militia.

who belonged to him and who had then upwards of Seven Years to serve; and prayed that he might be permitted to have him again, he himself being obliged from the loss of his Arm and ill health to leave the Army and states besides, that he had suffered considerably from the incursions of the Enemy. I am directed by His Excellency to inform You that if the Facts with respect to the Man and the Major's sufferings by the incursions of the Enemy are as he has represented them, he consents to his having him again. I am &c.[21]

GENERAL ORDERS[22]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 11, 1780.

Parole Watch. Countersigns Youngster, Yearling.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Ogden, / Lieutenant Colonel Commandt. Weissenfells, / Brigade Major, Hand's Brigade.

A Corporal and four men from the first Pennsylvania Brigade are to be sent to the Quarter Master General's clothing store tomorrow and are to be relieved every other day by the same brigade untill further orders.

The Brigade Quarter masters are immediately to make Returns to the Quarter master General of all the public riding Horses, Saddles and Bridles in the Brigades to which they belong specifying the particular persons name and rank in whose possession they are; also at what Time they were received by whose order; and for what particular purpose. These Returns are to be countersigned by the Brigadiers or Officers commanding Brigades.

[21] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "R: H: Harrison, Secy.".

[22] From this date until November, 1781, the Varick Transcripts of the General Orders in the Library of Congress records the duty assignments of the Officers of the Day.

The attendance of the Brigade Major of the Day for Orders is dispensed with.

The Honorable the Congress having been pleased to pass the following Resolve; all persons concerned are required to take Notice thereof.

In Congress, March 22nd., 1780.

Resolved, That the office of commissioner of cloathing accounts, established by a resolve of Congress of the 2d of March, 1779, be discontinued after six months from the date hereof; and that all persons having cloathing accounts for the year 1777, and who do not exhibit them to the said commissioner within that period, shall not receive any compensation for any arrearages they may hereafter claim to be due to them.

Colonel Scammell having returned will resume the duties of his Office.

The Commander in Chief requests Colonel Williams to accept his Thanks for the attention assiduity and propriety with which he has conducted the office in the absence of Colonel Scammell.

AFTER ORDERS

Mr. Pomeroy, Commissioner of clothing accounts for the year 1777 quarters at Mr. George King's opposite the Paymaster General's Office in Morristown.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 12, 1780.

Parole Maryland. Countersigns Williams, Baltimore.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel H. Jackson
Lieutenant Colonel Robinson[23]
Brigade Major, Maxwell's Brigade

[23] Lieut. Col. Thomas Robinson, of the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment. He had been wounded at Brandywine in September, 1777; transferred to the Second Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1783; made colonel in September, 1783; served to November, 1783.

As the late draught from the Line to reenforce the Commander in Chief's Guard is only Temporary the men are to be furnished with Pay and Clothing from their respective regiments in the same manner as if they had not been drawn out.

Captain Lieutenant Waters[24] of the 1st. Regiment of Artillery is appointed Adjutant to the same from the 21st. of Sept. 1778.

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, April 12, 1780.

Dr Sr: I have recd your favr on the subject of Col Gunby's demand of a Waggon, on account of his commanding a Brigade for the present. I cannot by any means think it necessary that he should be supplied with one from this circumstance, therefore wish you in this as well as in all future similar cases to refuse complying with the request. I am &c.[25]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL SAMUEL HOLDEN PARSONS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 12, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 6th: and am pleased to find that the Legislature are at length taking measures to satisfy their Officers and Soldiers. It is to be wished that their want in respect to Cloathing and other matters could be immediately supplied, but I am in hopes they will wait patiently a while longer, when they see that proper steps are pursuing to make provision for them.

[24] Capt.-Lieut. Richard Waters, of the First Continental Artillery. He was taken prisoner at Camden, S. C., in August, 1780, and prisoner on parole to the close of the war.

[25] The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

I had, previous to the Rect. of yours, upon the request of the Governor, sent home as many Officers as could possibly be spared, to assist in the Business of recruiting.

The number of General Officers with the Army is so small and has been so during the Winter, that notwithstanding I am obliged to dispense with many duties properly incidental to that Rank, it falls heavy upon the few who are present. I am therefore under the necessity of requesting your return to the Army as soon as you can possibly make it convenient.

The exchange of Officers or Men in the marine line has come so little under my direction, that I have scarce interfered in a single instance.

The Commy. receives his instructions, where the prisoners are continental, from the marine Committee of Congress, and I doubt not but your son will have justice done him in his turn of exchange. There being but few naval prisoners on either side, I observe that exchanges frequently happen, and I therefore hope that your son's captivity will be but of short duration. I am &c.[26]

To HENRY CHAMPION

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 12, 1780.

Sir: When Colo. Blaine passed this place, in his way from the Eastward, he informed me, that you had again undertaken the purchase of Cattle on public account, which gave much pleasure, as I had been well informed of your abilities in the execution of that Business. The distress to which the Army is at length reduced, on the score of Meat, is equal, if not superior to any thing which it has experienced in the course of the War.

[26] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

We have not at this day one ounce of Meat fresh or salt in the Magazine, and supposing all the supplies of this Article within any reasonable distance (which I know of) ever collected, they would not amount to more than three or four days consumption. From what Colo. Blaine said, I had reason to expect assistance from you about this time, indeed our great and only dependance for Meat is upon your Quarter. If therefore you have not forwarded any Cattle when this reaches you, I must, in the most earnest manner, request you to exert yourself to the utmost to afford us relief. We may possibly, with the greatest difficulty, subsist for a very short time upon this almost totally exhausted Country, but we ought not, nor must not depend upon it for any thing more. If we do, it must be by depriving the inhabitants of what barely remains sufficient for their own support.

I have given you a true picture of our distress and I have the fullest confidence in your taking every measure in your power to bring about a change of circumstances. I shall be glad to have your answer as expeditiously as possible, with your opinion of your prospects of a supply of Beef now and in future. I am &c.[27]

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 12, 1780.

Sir: Since I had the Honor of addressing Your Excelly on the 9th Inst. and of transmitting you at that time a Letter of the 26th Ulto on the subject of the supplies to be furnished by Your State in consequence of the Act of Congress of the 25th of Feby. I have more maturely considered the point with respect to the places at which they should be deposited, and I beg leave to

[27] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

inform You, it appears to me that they should be collected at the following places and in the proportions set against them respectively.[28]

Places of deposit.	Barls. Flour.	Gals Rum.	Tons Hay.	Busls. Corn.
Fort Pitt	2,400	7,000	150	7,500
Ligonier	300	850	40	2,000
Bedford	300	850	40	2,000
Carlisle	800	4,000	80	4,000
York Town	100	280	40	2,000
Estherton	200	1000	20	1,000
Sunbury	1000	3,000	60	3,000
Wyoming	500	1500	40	2,000
Lancaster	500	1200	180	14,000
Lebanon	200	500	200	10,000
Reading	200	560	180	14,000
Easton	20,000	1000	200	70,000
Philadelphia	13,500	3083	470	68,500
....	40,000	24,423	1,700	200,000

The ultimate places of deposit of the Salt must be governed by the requisition of the Commissary General. I have the Honor etc.[29]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 12, 1780.

Dear Sir: I was yesterday honored with your favor of the 7th: and am very sorry to find that your Frontier is likely to be again disturbed by the incursions of the Savages. It appears by yours that you had not received the Act of Congress of the 4th instant, by which they approve of your proposal of raising 800 Militia

[28] The table of deposits is identical with the Pennsylvania section in the March 25 table. (See note to Circular Letter to the States, Mar. 26, 1780, *ante*.)

[29] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

for the defence of the State. I take the liberty of inclosing you a Copy of it, lest the dispatches of the president, conveying the matter to you officially, may meet with some delay. Your Excellency will observe by the Resolve, that these Troops are to be employed "under the direction of the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army." You are so much better acquainted than I am with the parts of the Country which call more immediately for support and defence, that I shall leave the distribution of the Militia who are to be embodied entirely to you. I shall only wish to be informed of the disposition made by you, as I may hereafter have occasion to make correspondent arrangements with Continental troops. I cannot help expressing my thanks for this exertion of the State in raising a Body of Men at this time, as it will probably relieve the Continental Army from making a detachment for the same service, which would be extremely inconvenient, considering the great reduction it has lately undergone by the expirations of service, and by the reinforcements which we have sent and are now sending to the Southward. We hear that some of the States are recruiting with success, but we cannot expect to derive much advantage from their Recruits till very late in the season, as they have but just entered upon the Business. I have the honor etc.[30]

To COLONEL CHRISTOPHER GREENE

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 12, 1780.

Sir: I have been favd. with yours of the 27th. March inclosing a Return of your Regimt. and the proceedings of a General Court Martial held by order of General Cornell. I am under the necessity of disapproving the sentence of the Court against Windsor Fry on account of its irregular constitution; as by the

[30] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The letter sent is said to be in the New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.

Articles of War a General Court Martial of the trial of a Continental Officer or soldier can only be ordered by the Commander in Chief; the Officer commanding a separate department or the Continental General Officer commanding in any one of the states. But that the Offender may not thereby escape from punishment, I inclose a power to hold a proper Court, under which the prisoner may be brought to a new trial. I have not yet determined upon the station of your Regt. for the ensuing Campaign, but I think it more than probable that I shall be under the necessity of drawing it to the main Body of the Army to replace, in part, the detachments which we have been obliged to make to the southward.

I return the proceedings of the former Court Martial and am etc.[31]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 13, 1780.

Parole Morristown. Countersigns Mars, Music.

Of the Day Tomorrow
- Colonel Angell
- Lieutenant Colonel Smith
- Brigade Major, 1st. Pensylva. Brigade

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 13, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your favors of the 2d. 3d. and 10th: instants. I take it for granted that the detail of the signals furnished by Genl. Patterson is right. I have no Copy of it in my possession.

[31] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

I have not yet obtained any certain account that the fleet which fell down to the Hook on the 5th: has put to sea. I however think it may be depended on from a concurrence of circumstances, that they are bound to the southward, but untill we know that they are actually gone out, we cannot be too much guarded against what may be only a feint.

I am glad you have thought of bringing the Fascines and Gabions within the Works upon the point. They would be of the utmost importance to the enemy should they move up seriously agt. our posts. There were a number cut down about Fort Montgomery and at other places near the Water.

General Heath, who is appointed by the State of Massachusetts to superintend the recruiting service, writes me, that he shall endeavour to detain three Commd. and one non Commissioned Officer of each Regt. who are already in the State on furlough, to go out recruiting and to march the recruits, deserters who may be apprehended, and furloughed Men, from the places of rendezvous to West point. But as he is not certain of finding the number required, he wishes you to send the deficiency, should there be any, from the line. This you will be pleased to do if the state of the Regiments will admit of it. Those Officers who have not been indulged with furloughs should be preferred as they will have an opportunity of visiting their families and friends and looking into their private affairs at the same time. Capt. Webb[32] the Bearer of this, who is under a necessity of resigning if he cannot obtain leave of absence, would be content with going home upon these terms. He represents the situation of his family in such manner, that I wish him to be indulged if possible, at any rate.

[32] Capt. James Webb, of Sherburne's Additional Continental regiment. He resigned in April, 1780.

That there may be no misapprehension you will be pleased to acquaint the Officers before they go out upon the recruiting service that I know of no continental Bounty or allowance to reimburse their expenses or to compensate their trouble. The State I have been informed have made some provision, but I do not know exactly what it is. I have been full upon this point, lest the Officers should hereafter complain, that they had gone out in obedience to orders, and that the state allowance was not adequate to their necessary expenditures. They must also be informed that the Recruits which may be obtained will be for the benefit of the line at large and not for any particular Corps. I am &c.[33]

*To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Morris-town, April 13, 1780.

Dear Sir: Your private letter of the 11th. came safe to hand. The rumor of my going to the Southward has nothing, at this time, to support it. In consequence of the preparations which were making at New York to embark Troops; and the intelligence I had received of the destination of them, I gave information to Congress, accompanied with a state of our strength, and the disagreeable circumstances under wch. we laboured submitting it to them to determine (after maturely considering the several matters I had communicated) on the propriety of Marching the Maryland division (including the Delaware Regiment) to the aid of the Southern States.

About the same time that your letter came to hand, directions from Congress respecting the March of these Troops arrived. Accordingly, this division as it is, is preparing to March, but

[33] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

how they will get on for want of Provisions, Transportation &ca., Heaven alone can tell, I cannot.

In the private conversation you allude to, as having passed between you and me in the Winter, respecting your going to the Southward, I think I then said, but sure I am I meant to say, that however desirable and proper it might be to send a Gentn. of influence who was well acquainted at the same time with the temper and disposition of the people; the resources of the Country, &ca., the doing of it lay wholly with Congress and I had never interfered in any appointment in that department. I again mention this matter lest there should have been any misconception, and I am the more inclined to do it as your coming from that quarter was the result of a particular act of Congress entered into without my privity or knowledge.

If the theatre of War should be transferred to the Southward and my remove thither consequent, I should be very happy in having you along with me being Dr. Sir &c.

To MAJOR HENRY LEE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 13, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 10th. I am sorry to find that the repairs of your accoutrements and the general indisposition of your Horses, will prevent your moving so soon as could have been wished, but I have confidence in your making no greater delay than is absolutely necessary.

The Board of War having powers to order General Courts Martial the prisoner you mention may be tried at Philadelphia, but it is worth considering whether you can have him tried and the proceedings sent up for my approbation (which will be necessary) and an answer returned before the Corps will probably march. The example, should he be found guilty

and sentenced to death, is wanted more immediately for your own people than the Army at large, and therefore the desired good effect would be lost, should you march before the trial can be regularly gone thro' and the proceedings confirmed. You omitted to inclose the letters from Virginia to which you refer.

I wish you an expeditious, safe and agreeable march and every honor and success to yourself and your Corps, as I am etc.[34]

To JOHN MERCEREAU[35]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 13, 1780.

Sir: I have for some time expected to hear from you in consequence of the plan settled with you when you were last at Head Quarters. I at present want to be informed with certainty, whether the Fleet which fell down to the Hook on the 5th. instant and which was supposed to be bound to the southward, went immediately to sea, or whether it yet remains there. If you have not already obtained this information, you may perhaps satisfy yourself by looking out from the Heights between Brunswic and Woodbridge, and if you cannot from such a view gain a competent knowledge, I would wish you to send a person purposely to the Island. It is said that another embarkation is preparing, and I would therefore wish you upon that account to send over a person to learn whether any and what kind of Vessels are watering. You will be pleased to transmit me what intelligence you can by return of the Bearer, and what further you may obtain in consequence of the foregoing directions, by a Messenger sent for the purpose. It is very material that I should be informed as speedily as possible.

[34] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[35] The draft is addressed to Mercereau at Bonum Town, but a letter from him (April 14) is dated "Piscatua."

Be pleased to contrive the inclosed to Captain Lyell in Amboy. I am &c.[36]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 14, 1780.

Parole Amsterdam. Countersigns Arms, Arts.

Of the Day Tomorrow
- Colonel Spencer[37]
- Lieutenant Colonel North[38]
- Brigade Major, 2d Pennsylva. Brigade

Lieutenant Colonel Hay[39] is appointed Member of the General Court Martial whereof Colonel Livingston is President, vice Lieutenant Colonel Huntington

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 15, 1780.

Parole Barcelona. Countersigns Bergen, Brest.

Of the Day Tomorrow
- Brigadier General Clinton
- Lieutenant Colonel Huntington
- Brigade Major Fish.[40]

Lieutenant Colonel Howard is to join the 6th. Maryland Regiment 'till a further arrangement of that line takes place.

The Quartermaster General will have the public roads between Morristown and Somersett Court House immediately repair'd; The Adjutant General will upon application furnish parties for that purpose

[36] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[37] Col. Oliver Spencer.

[38] Lieut. Col. Caleb North, of the Ninth Pennsylvania Regiment. He was transferred to the Second Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1781, and retired in January, 1783.

[39] Lieut. Col. Samuel Hay, of the Tenth Pennsylvania Regiment.

[40] Maj. Nicholas Fish, of the Second New York Regiment. He served to the close of the war.

The commanding officers of Brigades, Regiments and companies in the Maryland Division will take especial Care that the Huts in their Encampment are not injured in any manner by the soldiers when they march or before they do it: This Division to march tomorrow morning by the route which will be pointed out by the Quarter master General.

At a Division General Court martial held in the Maryland line by order of Brigadier General Gist April 11th. Lieutenant Colonel Howard President; Lieutenant Hoops[41] of the 4th. Maryland Regiment appeared before the Court charged with:

1st. Unofficer and ungentlemanlike behavior in swearing when he came off of camp guard he would not do another Tour of duty as a subaltern and telling the Adjutant he would return himself unfit for duty in the next Weekly return.

To which charge Lieutenant Hoops pleads Not Guilty.

2dly. For returning himself sick and refusing to do duty on that account when in the presence of one or more of the officers of the regiment, at the same time pronounced himself not sick but said he had other reasons for so doing.

All of which charge Lieutenant Hoops admits.

3dly. Though being returned sick went to Morristown Ball[42] and remaining one night and best part of two days from his regiment without permission from the commanding officer of the same.

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[41] Lieut. Adam Hoops. He was promoted and ranked as captain from November, 1779; taken prisoner at Camden, S. C., in August, 1780; transferred to the Second Maryland Regiment in January, 1781; but was a prisoner on parole to the end of the war.

[42] A facsimile of the subscription, by the officers at Headquarters, to establish a dancing assembly in Morristown, is in Smith & Watson's *American Historical and Literary Curiosities*, Phila.: 1861, 6th edn. It reads: "The Subscribers agree to pay the Sums annexed to their respective Names, and an equal quota of any further Expence which may be incurred in the promotion and support of a dancing assembly to be held at Morristown this present Winter 1780. Subscription Monies to be paid into the hands of a Treasurer, hereafter to be appointed." It was signed by Washington and 34 other officers.

Lieutenant Hoops admits going to Morristown Ball and being absent without leave but denies that part of the charge which particularizes the Time.

The Court having considered the 1st. charge against Lieutenant Hoops, the Evidence and his Defence, are of opinion, he is not Guilty they therefore do acquit him with Honor.

The Court having considered the 2nd. charge against Lieutenant Hoops the Evidence and his Defence are of opinion that he was sick and that he was justifiable in saying he was not so; they therefore do acquit him.

The Court having considered the 3d. Charge against Lieutenant Hoops, the Evidence and his Defence, are of opinion that he was not Guilty of remaining one night and best part of two days from his regiment and that he was justifiable in leaving camp without leave from the commanding officer of the regiment the officer commanding being of inferior rank to himself; they therefore do acquit him with Honor.

The Commander in Chief approves the acquittal.

A Serjeant, Corporal and twelve privates from the Maryland line to be sent to the Adjutant General's quarters this afternoon to take charge of some prisoners of War.

AFTER ORDERS

A Captain, Sub, three Serjeants and fifty Rank and File from each Division except the Maryland to parade tomorrow morning 9 o'clock on the Grand Parade with their Arms, blanketts and two days provision where they will receive orders from the Quarter master General.

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 15, 1780.

Sir: The probability of a continuance of the War to the Southward, which will of course draw the troops of the State

of Virginia to that quarter, makes it essentially necessary that every measure should be taken to procure supplies of Cloathing for them, especially of Shoes, Stockings and linen. The distance and the difficulty of transportation would render a supply of those Articles, from hence, extremely precarious, even were our Continental Magazines well stocked, but this is so far from being the case, that I can assure your Excellency there never was greater occasion for the states to exert themselves in procuring Cloathing for their respective troops. General Lincoln has, he informs me, already written to you on this subject, but as he could not be acquainted with our present circumstances and prospects in regard to Cloathing, I thought it expedient to communicate our situation to your Excellency that You might the better perceive the necessity which the State of Virginia will be under of supplying her troops to the southward more particularly with the Articles which I have before enumerated. I have the honor etc.[43]

To MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 15, 1780.

My Dear Sir: I have successively received your several letters of the 23d. and 28th. of January 12th. 14th and 23rd. of February, almost all of which were come to hand when I wrote you by General Du Portail, but by accident were not acknowledged.

As far as it is possible for me at this distance and with a very inconsiderable knowledge of the Country, to judge, your reasonings on the best plan for an expedition against Augustine[44] appear to me well founded. But unfortunately for us, from every present aspect we shall find ample employment in defending ourselves without meditating conquests.

[43] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[44] St. Augustine, Fla.

Your latter letter announces the arrival and progress of Sir Henry Clinton to Stono. It is of the greatest importance that he met with the disasters which attended his voyage, though they were much smaller than was expected. This no doubt is the cause of his delay, and I sincerely hope will give you time to receive the necessary succours and put yourself in an effectual posture of defence.

In my letter by General Du Portail, I informed you that my advices from New York indicated a further embarkation supposed to be destined for the Southward. This has actually taken place, and has been for some time on the point of sailing; though it is not yet ascertained that they have sailed. I have had several accounts of the corps composing the detachment, but as they materially differ from each other, I cannot rely sufficiently upon either to transmit it. From every information the total number will be from 2000 to 2500 men, commanded by Lord Rawdon as Brigadier. I do not learn that there are any cavalry or draft horses, more than about fifteen dragoons attached to Simcoe's corps. If this embarkation should be designed as a reinforcement to General Clinton and he should suspend his operations 'till its arrival as is probable, so much time will be exhausted that he will be thrown into the hot season; a circumstance not a little unfavourable to his success. You will easily conceive the degree of our solicitude here for the fate of Charles Town and its garrison. My apprehensions, after all, are principally for the harbour. If this is secured, the operations against you must become critical and arduous. But whatever may be the event, of this we are assured that no exertion, prudence or perseverance on your part, will be wanting to defeat the attempts of the enemy. May the issue be equally conducive to your personal glory and to the advantage of these states.

In consequence of the detachment the enemy are now making it has been determined to march the Maryland division of

about 2000 men to your assistance; but our situation here will not permit it to move before it is certain the enemy's detachment has sailed. Baron De Kalb will command this division. This reinforcement in all probability will be too late to have any influence upon the fate of Charles Town; but if that should fall, it may serve to check the progress of the British troops and prevent their getting intire possession of the State. If they succeed against Charles Town, there is much reason to believe the Southern states will become the principal theatre of the war.

I inclose you sundry resolutions of Congress of the 25th. of February for raising specific supplies of provisions and forage on the different states, in which you will find the quantities apportioned on North and South Carolina. Congress have left it to me to determine the places of deposit; but my remoteness from those two states and the imperfect knowledge I have of their position and circumstances disqualify me from extending my arrangements to them. These will be much better made by you, and I must request you will as speedily as possible carry into execution that part of the resolutions which depends on me. I have written to the Governors of the two States referring them to you for information on this head, which you will no doubt give without loss of time.

I have written to the Governor of Virginia pressing the supplying the troops of that State with Cloathing, agreeable to your request. I am etc.[45]

To GOVERNOR JOHN RUTLEDGE

Morris Town, April 15, 1780.

[See Washington's letter to Governor Richard Caswell, April 7, 1780.]

[45] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

To THE MAGISTRATES OF NEW JERSEY

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 15, 1780.

Gentlemen: The readiness with which you complied with a late application of mine on the subject of provisions for the army, at the same time, that it makes me unwilling to trouble you more frequently than cannot be avoided, gives me the fullest confidence in your aid, whenever necessity and the public good require it. Another occasion presents itself equally pressing with the former, for the exercise of that zeal of which you have already given so signal a proof. The army is on the point of experiencing the same distresses which dictated the former application to you, for want of adequate means of transportation, which it is impracticable in the present juncture to furnish in the ordinary way. Yesterday the last of the meat we had in the magazines here was issued to the army; and the supplies at the different deposits within reach cannot be brought to camp, by any efforts in the power of The Qr. Mr General.[46] I am therefore to intreat you will employ your influence and authority to raise in your county and furnish Mr. Moore Foreman[47] with such a number of teams and sufficient forage for their support as he may find necessary to assist in forwarding a quantity of salted provisions which is now at Trenton[48] to Camp. Mr. Foreman will give certificates for the hire of the waggons on the same terms mentioned in my address of January last.

I beg you to be assured Gentlemen that this requisition is the result of necessity, and that the most disagreeable consequences must ensue if it is not complied with. It is with peculiar reluctance, I at any time adopt a measure the least inconvenient

[46] At this point the draft has the following crossed out: "The most unfortunate consequences must ensue, if the different counties do not afford their assistance to supply this defect." *Cf* with the phraseology adopted later on.

[47] Moore Furman (Foreman), Deputy Quartermaster General.

[48] Trenton is crossed off, but this seems to be through inadvertence.

to the inhabitants. But there are exigencies when just scruples must give way to the public good[49] and even ultimately to their own ease.

You are not unapprised gentlemen of the embarrassments on the public affairs from the depreciation of the currency. These will for some time continue to operate and occasions will probably more than once occur during this period which will call for exertions of virtue and patriotism from the people. While I am confident these will never be wanting. I am happy in the hope that the measures pursuing by Congress will prevent the necessity from being of long duration.

I have the honor etc.[50]

To JONATHAN WILLIAMS[51]

Morris-town, April 15, 1780.

Sir: Your Letter of the 15th. of Feby. accompanying a case of Margeaux wine, came safe to hand. My thanks are offered for both, and I wish these may be as acceptable as the terms in which the Wine was presented, are polite; I shall then have made the return which seems most agreeable to your wish, altho' it will be far short of the sense I entertain of the obligation. I am, etc.[52]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 16, 1780.

Dr Sir: I have just recd your favor of this date. I have not had any advice from the Commanding Officer at Paramus of

[49] At this point the following is crossed off: "The present is one of this kind, and I am persuaded you will demonstrate in a new instance the love you bear to your."

[50] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

[51] United States Commercial Agent at Nantes, France.

[52] This letter is found in Washington's "Letter Book," no. 5, p. 7.

the matter which it communicates, and therefore must request you to give me the best intelligence you can get from that quarter. If you have any militia horse with you they may be serviceable while the enemy are out and enable you the better to give me an account of their movements. You will of course be on your Guard. It will be well to employ your horse on your left flank, which will be a security both to you and us, especially if the Enemy sh'd be out in force and intend a flying party for this place. I am &c.[53]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 16, 1780.

Parole Labradore. Countersigns Lima, Minden.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Brigadier General Maxwell / Lieutenant Colonel Mentges / Brigade Major, Stark's Brigade }

A Detachment to parade tomorrow morning 9 o'clock on the Grand parade with their Arms, Blanketts, two days provisions and forty rounds pr man.

Major J. Moore[54] to take command of them.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 17, 1780.

Parole Mexico. Countersigns Nile, Otway.

Of the day Tomorrow { Brigade Major, Hand's Brigade / Brigadier General Hand / Lieutenant Colonel Conway[55] }

[53] The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

[54] Maj. James Moore, of the First Pennsylvania Regiment. He was transferred to the Second Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1783, and served to November, 1783.

[55] Lieut. Col. John Conway, of the First New Jersey Regiment. He retired in January, 1781.

Four Battalions to be paraded on the Grand parade tomorrow morning 9 o clock at which time Colonels Johnson, Courtlandt, Ogden and Jackson; Lieutenant Colonels Barber, Smith, Harmar and Huntington and Major Fish are to attend.

	Capt.	Sub.	Serjt.	P.
General St. Clair's Division to give.....	6.	18.	26.	288
Hands Brigade "	2.	4.	4.	48
Stark's ditto .... " (Blue and red)..	2.	4.	4.	48
Maxwell's ditto .... "	3.	10.	13.	144
Stark's ditto .... " (Blue and Buff)	2.	3..	4..	48
Clinton's ditto .... "	5.	13.	17..	192

AFTER ORDERS

At a General Court martial of the Line whereof Colonel Livingston is President, the 10th instant; Mr. Randall,[56] State Clothier from the State of Maryland appeared before the Court charged with.

"Unofficerlike behavior in distributing the cloth sent up by the State of Maryland for the use of her Officers in an unjustifiable partial manner in consequence of which many officers are injured".

The Court having fully and maturely considered the charge against Mr. Randall and the Evidence do Acquit him with Honor.

The Commander in Chief approves the opinion of the Court.

Mr. Randall is released from Arrest.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 17, 1780.

Sir: I have duly received your Excellencys dispatches of the 6th. and 9th. of April.

[56] John Randall.

The Maryland division marched this morning, with the first Regiment of Artillery and eight field pieces besides those attached to the Brigades which will be useful at any rate essential if an accident should happen to Charles Town. The want of Waggons has unavoidably retarded the march of the Troops till this time.

I have attentively considered the application from the State of Massachusetts on the subject of an expedition against the Enemy at Penobscot. It appears to be of great importance in several points of view that they should be dislodged; but circumstanced as we are I do not see how the attempt can be made with any prospect of success. A naval cooperation seems to be absolutely necessary and for this we do not possess the means. We have no Fleet and the Enemy have a respectable one on the coast which they can at any time employ to frustrate our measures. From all accounts the Posts at Penobscot are strongly situated and susceptible of being made more formidable by additional fortification which it is to be presumed has not been neglected. To attempt a *coup de main,* with a tolerable certainty of success, would require a considerable force, and of other troops than Militia, which can by no means be spared. To operate by a seige with Cannon and the necessary apparatus would be an affair of length. The operating force I am informed must depend on supplies of every kind by Water. This communication would be liable to be interrupted at the pleasure of the Enemy and the situation of the Troops would be alarmingly precarious. A reinforcement might at any time be sent from Hallifax and New York to raise the seige; our Troops would perhaps escape themselves with difficulty no doubt with disgrace and with the loss of their cannon and stores. But were there no other obstacles in the way the total deficiency of money and magazines seems

alone to be insurmountable. With respect to both of these we seem to be arrived at so desperate an extremity, that every arrangement and operation is at a stand, and without speedy relief inevitable ruin must ensue.

These objections to the expedition obviously present themselves in the present posture of our affairs, though I confess I have not a sufficient knowledge of the Country in question to form a very accurate judgment. Could we obtain an effectual naval cooperation, this and many other things might be undertaken, which without it are impracticable. Indeed considering the position of these States a Fleet is essential to our system of defence; that we have not hitherto suffered more than we have for want of it is to be ascribed to the feeble and injudicious manner in which the Enemy have applied the means in their hands during this War. The plan they are now persuing of attacking points remote from each other will make us feel the disadvantage in a striking manner, and may be fatal, if our allies are not able to afford us naval succour. In all respects, it is more necessary now than it ever was. I have the honor etc.

P. S. It is of great moment the States through which the Maryland Division passes should be engaged to exert themselves to get them forward otherwise they will be halting between the two points where they are wanted and their services will be lost to both. I am sorry to be obliged to transmit the inclosed disagreeable account from Paramus.[57] The Post there is intended to restrain the traffic between that part of the Country and New York which from the disposition of the Inhabitants has been very considerable. This consideration

[57] A copy of Capt. Jonathan Hallet's letter of April 16 was inclosed. He reported the surprise of the guard at Paramus on the morning of the 16th, by the British, who captured about 50 and destroyed the stores and burned two houses and a mill. The original letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

has induced me to station a party there though at some hazard, but though with reluctance I imagine I shall be obliged to withdraw it, for the extreme disaffection of the Inhabitants gives the Enemy even greater advantages than was supposed.

Since writing the above I am honored with your letter of the 13th. I hope the Bilboa account may be just, as it is much more favorable than the preceeding ones.

Inclosed you will be pleased to receive a further Letter from the Gentlemen deputed to Amboy.[58]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 17, 1780.

Sir: In consequence of the Detachments of Infantry already made from hence to the Southward and the One now on the march, and from the probability there is, that the Enemy mean to prosecute their measures in that quarter with vigor, I have thought it expedient to send a respectable reinforcement of Artillery, Officers and Matrosses there likewise. I would however beg leave to suggest that I find it may be necessary for Congress, in order that harmony and consistency may be preserved in our arrangements, to pass some Resolutions on a point respecting this line, which I shall take the liberty to state.

The Four Battallions of Artillery which have hitherto acted in this Quarter, have been arranged and considered, as forming a line, and the principles established by Congress in their Act of the 24th of November 1778 for governing promotions in the State lines, have been adopted with respect to them, Vizt that the Officers should rise Regimentally to the rank of Cap-

[58]A copy of St. Clair, Carrington, and Hamilton's letter of April 10 was inclosed. The original is in the *Washington Papers*. It reported the terms on which any sum of money would be accepted from the British in liquidation of the whole or part of the account for feeding British prisoners of war.

The letter to Congress is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

tains and from thence as Field Officers in the line of the Four, according to seniority, which principles have been also adopted in the case of the Four Regiments of Cavalry and the promotions which have taken place in both since, have been made accordingly. In this arrangement of the Artillery, the Battallion in South Carolina for want of a proper knowledge of its state and of the footing on which it stood, was not comprehended, and the Officers of it I have been informed, have been generally promoted on a Regimental principle to this time, so that Colo Beekman[59] the present Commanding Officer, who succeeded on the death of Colo Roberts after the action of Stono, tho a much junior Officer before, will command Lt Colo Carrington, who is going with the reinforcement detached. This is an injury, but I am persuaded as Colo Carrington is himself, that it is not remediable now and under which he seems well disposed to acquiesce, as any proceedings having a retrospect and to alter the promotions which have taken place by authority, tho they might not have been strictly regular, would lead to many difficulties. But to prevent the like in future and the consequent discontents which would arise, I would submit it to Congress, whether it will not be expedient for them to take up the business where it now stands, and pass a Resolution for placing this Battallion in future on the same footing with the Others, and determining that the promotions in it hereafter and through the whole of the Artillery Battallions, shall be made agreeable to the principles I have mentioned, except where it may be the pleasure of Congress to depart from them. If this is not done and the present system with respect to it continues, it may lead in the course of service to disagreeable consequences, as in case of the death or fall of

[59] Col. Barnard Beekman. He succeeded to the command of the Fourth South Carolina (artillery) Regiment after Col. Owen Roberts was killed at Stono Ferry, S. C., in June, 1779.

Colo Beekman and in like manner of his successors One after another, the injury would be repeated in the promotions of Junior Officers, which would not be acquiesced under and which would be a perpetual source of uneasiness.

I would also take the liberty to inform Congress, that there is a Company of Artillery now in South Carolina commanded by a Captain Kingsbury,[60] which was raised in North Carolina. This Company exists at present on an independent plan, unconnected with any Batallion. As these little Corps are found to be attended with many inconveniences and we are endeavouring to reform them as fast as circumstances will permit, I would submit it to Congress, whether it may not be best for them, to attach it to the South Carolina Battallion, reserving to all the Officers their ranks at the time according to the Commissions they have actually received, or the ranks in which they command, sanctioned by authority. The Battallion will then as I have been informed, have only Seven Companies and will still want five to complete it to the establishment of the rest. I have the Honor etc.[61]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 17, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I received some days ago your letter of the 27th. of last month. I have communicated your request with respect to Recruiting Officers, to Major General Howe and desired him to send on a number, if the state of the Regiments would admit of it, informing them however previously, to prevent a misapprehension on the subject and that they might use their own discretion upon the occasion, that I knew of no Continental

[60] Capt. John Kingsbury, of the Independent North Carolina Artillery company. He was taken prisoner at Charleston, S. C., in May, 1780.

[61] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The letter was read in Congress on April 20 and referred to the Board of War.

Bounty or allowance to reimburse their expences or to compensate for their trouble. How many or whether any would go for the State encouragement is a point about which I have not heard. Your plan for sending the Recruits on, seems to be a very good one. I would observe with respect to the Recruits that it would be best if it could be done to enlist them generally for the Line and not for particular Regiments, as they might then with more facility be disposed of among the Regiments, so as to make them all of equal strength; a matter essential to uniformity and arrangement, and which ought always to be attended to. I am sorry there should be the obstacles there are to enlisting men, as it is certainly very interesting to us, to have the Army upon a more respectable footing than it is at present, but such is the state of our Treasury and of our Cloathing supplies, that it is not in my power to do any thing to promote it at this time. With respect to the money in Mr Hancocks[62] hands, I do not like to give any orders about it, as I do not know at present to my own satisfaction, whether there is any pecuniary Continental Bounty, or if there is the particular cases in which it is allowed. The late Resolution of Congress on the 9th. of Feby., by which the States are called on to make up their deficiencies of Men, is totally silent on the subject, and it seems that the Act which preceded it in March 1779 and which was the last on the occasion, was only of a temporary nature and ceased when that of the 9th. of Feby. took place. At any rate if it could be supposed to exist, the Bounty of Two Hundred Dollars which it mentions was not exclusive of the State Bounties; but where these exceeded that sum, the State in adjusting their Recruiting accounts with the Public was to receive a credit for so much from the Continent. But as the requisition of Congress to the States only respects their

[62] Ebenezer Hancock, deputy paymaster general, Eastern Department.

providing for the deficiencies in their Infantry Regiments, and there is a necessity for Recruiting those of the Artillery, I have notwithstanding the incertainty I am under with respect to the Bounty, advanced Two Hundred Dollars for each Man enlisting in them for the War, where they receive no Bounty from the State. If therefore the men engaged by Colo Crane inlist for a *Continental Bounty only,* you may on his making out a Return of them by name, give him a Warrant on the back or annexed to it on Mr. Hancock for Two Hundred Dollars for each.

I am happy to hear of the captures you mention.[63] They are very valuable and I wish the Cargoes in both instances were with the Army. I have just been informed that a Privateer from Philadelphia had sent a Jamaica Man into the Delaware with about 450 Puncheons of Rum.

The latest advices I have received from Charles Town are of the 14th. Ulto. From appearances then it seemed to be the Enemy's intention to besiege it in regular form. Their Ships had not passed the Bar at that time nor attempted it, tho' from the measures they were pursuing it appeared to be their design. I am etc.[64] [MS. H. S.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, April 17, 1780.

Sir: As it is probable 8 or 10,000 blank Cartridges may be wanted by Thursday His Excellency has desired me to request you will be pleased to have them ready by that time. I am &c.

[63] "A ship, prize of the Dean frigate arrived at Boston a few days since with between 4 & 500 puncheons of Rum, and on the 23d Inst a ship prize to the Aurora of Marblehead arrived at that port laden with 1600 bbls. Flour, 1400 bbls Beef and Pork and some dry Goods. The Ship carried into Marblehead is one of a fleet of Victuallers bound to New York."—*Heath to Washington,* Mar. 27, 1780. Heath's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[64] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

P. S. You will also be pleased to have eight Light Field Pieces in readiness to manœuvre with the Troops.[65]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 18, 1780.

Gentn: I have the Honor to transmit You the arrangement of Harrison's, Lamb's, Crane's and Proctor's Battallions of Artillery, on which you will be pleased to issue Commissions. The Relative ranks of the Field Officers and of all the Captains as well those belonging to separate Companies as to the Battallions are set down after the Regimental arrangements, with the proper numbers against each, by which their precedence is to be determined and which will be noted as usual on their Commissions.

Captain Jones's[66] Company is not annexed to any Battallion. This is the case of Capn Kingsbury's raised in North Carolina. I have written to Congress to day and submitted to them the expediency of annexing the latter to the Battallion of Artillery in South Carolina. The Officers of both however want their Commissions.

There are Two arrangements of the Maryland Companies of Artillery, which have acted with Harrison's Battallion since they joined the Army. The reason for their being two is: They came out at first and stand at present in three Companies

[65] This letter is signed "R[ichard] K[idder] M[eade]."

Maj. Jeremiah Bruen, of Baldwin's Artificer regiment, wrote to Quartermaster General Greene, April 17: "I have just receiv'd a Note from Major Burnet, requesting me to have a Gallery built for the reception of the Ambassador from France: it is not in my power to do it for want of Boards. There is a plenty in this County, not far from this; but they cannot be had without Cash to purchase them." Greene forwarded the note to Washington with the comment: "Many things equally necessary in the order of business as these boards are left unprovided from mere poverty . . . there must be a total stop. This cannot be far distant; and I wish your Excellency to be prepared for the event." These letters are in the *Washington Papers*.

[66] Capt. Gibbs Jones, of the Pennsylvania Independent Artillery company. He resigned in April, 1780.

as you will perceive by the arrangement No. 1; but being very large and much above the establishment the *State* had it in contemplation to form them into a separate Corps of four and to be under a Major of their own appointment. They did me the honor to consult me upon the occasion and tho I was fully in opinion with them as to the propriety of their being formed into four, yet I took the liberty to recommend by a Letter on the 19 Feby[67] that it would be better if they thought proper, to annex the Companies to the 1st Battallion, Harrisons, than to form them into a separate Corps, on account of the difficulties which I had but too good reason to apprehend would arise on such a measure, with respect to the rank of the Officers which would affect those of the Old Corps; and requested in case they approved the plan that they would be pleased to communicate it to Congress. On this ground the arrangement No. 2 is formed and is merely conditional; for I have not heard from the State since I wrote them upon the subject, and therefore cannot tell whether they mean to adopt the plan they had at first in contemplation of forming the Companies into a separate Corps under a Major of their own appointment; or whether they will consent to their being annexed to the 1st. Battallion, as was recommended. If they have agreed to the latter and Congress or the Board have received an Official communication of it, and there is nothing in it repugnant, The Arrangement No 2 may take place and Commissions issue accordingly; But if this is not the case, they can only issue for the Officers of the three Companies as in the arrangement No. 1. In either event the Officers should receive their Commissions as all of them, except Capn Brown[68] and those of his

[67] See Washington's letter to Gov. Thomas Sim Lee, Feb. 19, 1780.

[68] Capt. William Brown, of the Maryland Independent Artillery company. His company is noted as having been joined to the First Continental Artillery in May, 1778. He was appointed major of the First Continental Artillery in January, 1781, and served to June, 1783.

Company, who are at Fort Schuyler, are going to the Southward, which is also the case of those of Harrison's Battallion. Lt Colo Carrington will be in Philadelphia and will receive those for the Officers going to S Carolina; the Others will be forwarded to Camp. I have the Honor etc.[69]

To MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 18, 1780.

Dr Sir: The Chevalier Du Buisson a Lt Col in the Army and Aide De Camp to The Baron De Kalb, having served three years in this army with reputation and being desirous to embrace every opportunity of distinguishing himself, I shall be glad you will improve any occasion circumstances may offer to employ him, in such a manner as will enable him to indulge his ardor. I am aware that it is difficult in our army to find employment of this kind for officers not attached to corps; nor is it my wish by what I have said to give you any embarrassment, but only to signify that it will afford me pleasure to have The Chevalier gratified as far as may be conveniently practicable. I am etc.[70]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 18, 1780.

Dear Sir: His Excellency being obliged to ride out this morning, I do myself the honour of acknowledging yours of the 17th. There are shoes in the Cloathier Generals store and your Sub Cloathier may have the quantity wanted for the line upon application. There are shirts also, but of so inferior a quality,

[69] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.
[70] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

that your sub Cloathier refused to take any of them; such as they are, you can have them if you chuse.

His Excellency, for reasons which he will give you the first time he has the pleasure of seeing you, wishes your troops to remain below[71] in preference to any others. I have the honor etc.[72]

To COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 18, 1780.

Dear Sir: Major Bull,[73] who succeeds to the Majority of the 1st. Regt. Dragoons vice Jameson, having represented to me the peculiar situation of his family, which would render his proceeding to South Carolina at this time extremely inconvenient, I have directed him to join and do duty in your Regiment 'till further orders.

Being informed that there is a quantity of Arms and Accoutrements proper for the cavalry at Springfield I have directed the Commy. of Military Stores at that place to deliver to you and to Colo. Sheldon for the use of your Regiments such of the Articles as you may want. I must again repeat my request that you will not suffer more to be drawn than are absolutely necessary to compleat the equipment of the Regt. I am &c.[74]

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 18, 1780.

Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 13th. The low state of the military Chest will not allow of a further sum on account of recruiting just now, for which reason your officers must

[71] Huntington's command was stationed at Springfield, N. J.

[72] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "T. Tilghman."

[73] Maj. Epaphras Bull, of the First Continental Dragoons. He died in October, 1781, of wounds received at Yorktown, Va.

[74] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

suspend that Business for the present. The Bounty to the Officer is 20 dollars for each new recruit and 10 dollars for each reinlisted Man. You may offer pardons to any of those who have deserted from you, who will return voluntarily in a limited time.

Inclosed you have a letter to Mr. Chever Commy of Military Stores at Springfield to deliver you the necessary quantity of such Arms and Accoutrements proper for the Cavalry, as he may have in the Magazine. Mr. Hubbard has had directions to provide any other Articles which may be wanting. I must again repeat my former request that you will draw no more than you find absolutely necessary to equip the Regt. You have also a letter to Mr. Bull[75] the Dy. Cloathier at Springfield directing him to stop the new Cloathing for your Regt. at that place and deliver it out to your Regimental Cloathier as it is wanted. I have done this in consequence of a letter from Major Tallmadge of the 12th. Inst.

The situation of Major Bulls family rendering it inconvenient for him to proceed and join the 1st. Regt. of Cavalry, he is, till further orders to join and do duty in the 4th. I am &c.[76]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 18, 1780.

Parole Nantasket. Countersigns Neptune, Po.

Of the Day Tomorrow	Brigadier General Irwin[77]
	Major Simeon Thayer[78]
	Brigade Major from Maxwell's Brigade

[75] James Bull.
[76] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[77] Brig. Gen. William Irvine.
[78] Of the Second Rhode Island Regiment. He was wounded at Monmouth, N. J., in June, 1778, and retired in May, 1781.

A Surgeon and Mate from General Maxwell's brigade to join the detachment under command of Major Moore immediately.

A Serjeant Corporal and Twelve men from General Maxwell's Brigade to mount at Baron Steuben's Quarters this afternoon and to be relieved daily from the same 'till further orders.

A Corporal and six men from General Hand's brigade to be sent as a fatigue party daily to Morristown with their detachment for Guard 'till further orders. This party to remain with the Main Guard for occasional fatigue.

The General Orders will be given out at one of the Huts in the 2d Maryland brigade lately occupied by Major Deane.[79]

AFTER ORDERS

The Members of the Ancient and honorable society of Free and Accepted Mason's (in the different Lines and Staff of the Army) are invited to the funeral of the late Major Piat[80] of their fraternity at Morristown on Wednesday the 19th instant 3 o'clock P M.

To EZEKIEL CHEEVER

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 18, 1780.

Sir: I am informed that there is a quantity of Arms and Accoutrements proper for Cavalry in the Magazines at Springfield under your care. You will be pleased to deliver to the order of Colonels Moylan and Sheldon or the commanding Officers of their Regiments such of the above Articles they may call for. I am &c.[81]

[79] Maj. John Deane (Dean), of the Fourth Maryland Regiment. He was transferred to the Second Maryland Regiment in January, 1781, and died in November, 1781.

[80] Maj. Daniel Piatt, of the First New Jersey Regiment. He died Apr. 16, 1780.

[81] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To JAMES BULL

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 18, 1780.

Sir: Mess. Otis and Henly will send forward to Springfield the Uniform Cloathing for Colo. Sheldons Regt. You will be pleased to detain it at that place, and deliver it out to the Regimental Cloathier upon Colo. Sheldons Returns. You are regularly to transmit to the Cloathier General an account of what you deliver to the Regimental Cloathier. I am &c.[82]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Wednesday, April 19, 1780.

Parole Washington. Countersign Greene.

Of the Day Tomorrow
- Colonel Chambers[83]
- Major Torrey[84]
- Brigade Major from 1st. Pennsylva. Brigade

AFTER ORDERS

The manœuvring Battalions are to be paraded tomorrow morning ten o clock precisely in the field near Colonel Abeel's[85] house.[86] A Detachment from the Artillery sufficient to manage eight field pieces to parade at the same Time and place without Cannon.

Brigadier General Clinton to take command of the Battalions.

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[82] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[83] Col. James Chambers, of the First Pennsylvania Regiment. He had been wounded at Brandywine in September, 1777, and retired in January, 1781.

[84] Maj. Joseph Torrey, of the Second Canadian Regiment. He was made lieutenant colonel in May, 1782, and retired in June, 1783.

[85] Col. James Abeel. He was Deputy Quartermaster General.

[86] This was in the nature of a practice drill for the maneuvers which took place before the French Minister on April 24.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, April 19, 1780.

Dr. Sir: Your Letter of the 18th was received this morning, by His Excellency when just setting out to meet the Minister of France. I wrote by the General's direction to Governor Livingston on the subject of it, and find by his answer that the Militia Horse under Captain Craig served by their own consent and that their continuing to do it must depend upon themselves. The General is not yet returned, but he told me before he left Head Qrs., that he thought with you their service would be essential and that he was willing to have them retained on the terms on which they had been engaged by the Baron de Kalb. You will therefore be pleased to write to Capn Craig on the subject and endeavour to prevail on him and the Men to continue a Month longer or for a shorter time if they should think that would be inconvenient. I am etc.[87]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Camp, April 19, 1780.

Sir: The Letter I have the honor to inclose Your Excellency, was received by the General when he was just setting out to meet the Minister of France, who is expected at Head Quarters to day. The General desired me to inform you that he thought the further service of the Militia Horse under Captain Craigs absolutely essential, and that he would be obliged by your Excellency's requesting them to continue a Month longer unless their place should be supplied sooner by an equal number of Others. He did not recollect the terms on which they had been engaged by The Baron de Kalb, but said

[87] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "R: H: Harrison, Secy."

he was willing they should be retained on the same. The Light Horseman that brought the Letter from Brigadr. Genl Huntington will return to day, and will be the bearer of any commands Your Excellency may think proper to send to Captain Craigs. I have the Honor etc.[88]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Thursday, April 20, 1780.

Parole Louis. Countersigns Vergennes, Luzerne.

Of the Day Tomorrow
- Colonel Angell
- Major C. Stewart
- Brigade Major, 2d. Pennsylvania Brigade

The General Court martial whereof Colonel Livingston is President is dissolved and another ordered to assemble at the same hut in the Connecticut line where they last sat for the Trial of Major Church[89] and such others as shall come before them.

Colonel Shreve to preside, Lieutenant Colonel Conway, Major Reed, Two Captains from the 1st. Pennsylvania brigade two from the 2nd. Two from Hand's one from Maxwell's one from Clinton's and two from Stark's to attend as Members.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 20, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I duly received Your Letter of the 24 Feby from Philadelphia when You were on the point of leaving it with

[88] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "R. H. H., Secy."

[89] Maj. Thomas Church, of the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment. He retired in January, 1781.

a Copy of the Instructions from the Board of War to which You refer. The business which they mentioned to employ your attention, is very interesting, and in this view I persuade myself that every reasonable exertion will be used as far as it may depend on You to promote it. I do not know what measures the State is pursuing to place their line upon a more respectable footing than it is at present, however I suppose in consequence of the late requisition of Congress on the 9th of Feby and the necessity of the case, they are doing something. In fixing on places of Rendezvous for the Recruits and Drafts, regard should be had to their probable future destination and to their health. The destination from present appearances will be the Southward, and therefore the more conveniently they can rendezvous to the communication leading that way, the better. But Petersburg from its usual unhealthiness should not by any means be appointed for them to assemble at. It has already proved the Grave of too many, and if it can be done, I think no time should be lost in removing the Troops from it, which may be there, as without a change of situation, there will be no good reason for us to hope the sick will recover. It might be proper perhaps for a Field Officer to take upon him the particular superintendence of them and while things remain in their present footing. Colo Davies who I understand is not gone to the Southward with any of the Regiments which marched with General Woodford would answer the purpose well. As the Recruits and Drafts come in, you will have them formed into Companies immediately under proper officers and every attention paid to their discipline and Whenever they amount to 50 strong they are to march and join the Troops of the State at the Southward. This is to be the case from time to time as often as they make this number, unless orders

are received to the contrary, and whenever the Detachments amount to 150 a Field Officer should proceed. That I may know how to direct matters with the more propriety, You will not fail to inform me of the places of Rendezvous You appoint, and to transmit me by every fortnights post a particular State of the Recruits or Drafts that assemble. Your attention will be extended to having the Old Soldiers collected who were furloughed and who have not joined their Regiments. I have been informed that there are many Deserters in the State and possibly that a good many of them would come in, if they were not afraid of being punished. You shall hear from me on this subject by the first post after I know the places You appoint for the rendezvous of the Recruits &c. which you cannot be too early in communicating. The Officers in the State will in all probability want their pay. I really do not know in the present deranged situation of our Treasury and from their remoteness how they will get it. Perhaps by transmitting an abstract of their names and Rank and the Regiments to which they belong, to the Honble the Board of War, with whom, by their instructions You are to correspond, it may be in their power to have the matter put in such a train that it may be obtained. I am etc.[90]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 20, 1780.

Dear Sir: The Minister of France, who is now here, being desirous to see Elizabeth town and the Country below the Mountain, I shall ride down with him tomorrow Morning. We purpose being at Springfield, where I expect the pleasure

[90] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

of meeting you by 10 OClock. You will be pleased to have small Guards posted at the points between Newark and Amboy and send as considerable a detachment as your command will afford to Elizabeth Town to receive the Minister. You will be pleased to keep the reason of this disposition intirely a secret, that the enemy may have no opportunity of taking any advantages. Be kind enough to desire Mr. Caldwell to have Forage for about forty Horse ready at Springfield. I am &c.

P. S. Be pleased to order the Militia Light Horse to be deligent in patrolling tomorrow and let a party of them extend up towards second River.[91]

To COLONEL WILLIAM DAVIES

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 20, 1780.

D Sir: I have received Your Letter of the 20th of last month, and Mr. Harrison[92] has communicated to me the contents of one he had received from you of the same date.

The arrangement of Officers for the Regiments gone to the Southward was made at Philadelphia, after the Virginia line marched from hence and I do not know the reasons which operated for appointing Colo Gist to the command of one of them in preference to Others. With respect to Yourself it possibly might have happened from an opinion which generally prevailed about the time, that you meant to leave the service. I have not heard that the post of Deputy Adjutant General in the Southern Army was vacant, but on the contrary I believe the Gentleman who has long held it still acts. At any rate however I do not know that there is any thing in the arrangement of the Adjutant General and Inspector's department which would

[91] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[92] Lieut. Col. Robert Hanson Harrison.

give any of the sub Inspectors a right to a vacancy which might happen in the former, on a successional principle; nor do I recollect that it was ever in contemplation to establish in them such a right. I have written to Genl Muhlenburg on the subject of collecting the Recruits and Drafts the State may make at certain places of Rendezvous, and how they are to be disposed of, and with respect to Deserters he will hear from me by another Opportunity. From the unhealthiness of Petersburg, I have requested him not to assemble the Recruits and Drafts at it, and if it can be done, to remove the Sick now there to some Other place. I have also proposed to him your superintending them for the present, and I doubt not if you are appointed, you will do all in your power to promote their relief. In such case you will advise General Muhlenburg of their state and number every Two or Three Weeks, who will of course inform me. I have written to Doctr. Brown,[93] who at this time has the direction of the Medical department (Doctr Shippen being in arrest) acquainting him that a physician or more is wanted, and desired him to take measures for having One supplied without loss of time if it can be done.

As to the pay of the Officers in Virginia, it is difficult to say from the state of our treasury and their remote situation, what can be done about it. I have mentioned the matter in my Letter to Genl Muhlenburg and perhaps by his transmitting an Abstract of their names, rank and Regiments, to the Honble The Board of War, with whom by the instructions he received from them he is occasionally to correspond, they may have it in their power to make some arrangement by which the Officers may obtain their pay. I am &c.[94]

[93] Dr. William Brown, Physician and Director General of Hospitals. He resigned in July, 1780.

[94] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

To COLONEL JAMES WOOD

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 20, 1780.

Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 25th. March inclosing the proceedings of a General Court Martial upon Fosill and Le Brun.[95] I could not have confirmed the sentence against the latter, on account of the irregular constitution of the Court; as a General Court Martial can only be held by order of the Commander in Chief or General Officer commanding in a separate department, or in one of the States. The prisoner may be therefore discharged and returned to his duty. I am &c.[96]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Friday, April 21, 1780.

Parole Charles. Countersigns D'Almadover, Mirailes.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Spencer[97] / Major Grier[98] / Brigade Major, Clinton's Brigade

Lieutenant Colonel Robinson[99] will join the manœuvring Battalion commanded by Colonel Cortlandt.

AFTER ORDERS

Major Parr[1] is appointed a Member of the General court martial whereof Colonel Shreve is president vice Major Reed[2] challenged by Major Church

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[95] Christopher Fossil and John La Brun. They were privates in Captain Read's Virginia State Dragoons.

[96] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[97] Col. Oliver Spencer.

[98] Maj. James Grier, of the Tenth Pennsylvania Regiment. He was transferred to the Sixth Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1781, and to the Third Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1783; served to June, 1783.

[99] Lieut. Col. Thomas Robinson, of the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment.

[1] Maj. James Parr, of the Seventh Pennsylvania Regiment. He retired in January, 1781.

[2] Maj. James Randolph Reid (Reed).

A Captain from the 2d. Pennsylvania Brigade to attend the same Court vice a Captain of that Brigade also challenged.

The Court will sit tomorrow morning 9 o clock.

To COLONEL ALEXANDER SCAMMELL

Head Quarters, April 21, 1780.

Sir: His Excellency desires you will be pleased to give orders immediately for Col Daytons Regt. to hold itself in readiness to march tomorrow morning at 8 OClock. The men Detached from it to compose a part of the four Battalions to maneuvre on Monday next are not to march with the Regt. You will be pleased to direct the commanding Officer of the Regt. to call here for his orders.[3]

To DOCTOR WILLIAM BROWN[4]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 22, 1780.

Sir: I recd. yours from Philada: with a general Return of Hospitals inclosed. I am informed that the sick belonging to the troops collected by General Scott at Petersburg are left at that place without Surgeons, without accommodations and destitute of every necessary for people under their circumstances. I must request you to enquire as speedily as possible into the matter and endeavour to make such arrangements as will afford them relief. The unhealthiness of Petersburg makes that place, in my opinion, a very improper one for an hospital, and I would therefore recommend a removal of the sick from thence to any other place upon the communication to the southward. Indeed I have advised General Muhlenberg,

[3] The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed "R. K. Meade."
[4] Then at Dumfries, Va.

who has the superintendance of the troops in the State, to fix upon some other place of rendezvous than Petersburg merely on account of its unwholesome situation. I am etc.[5]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Saturday, April 22, 1780.

Parole Sartine. Countersigns D'Estaing, Marebois.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Stewart[6] / Major Trescott[7] / Brigade Major, Stark's Brigade

The Guards to be very alert in turning out to the Minister of France and Committee of Congress and paying them the same Honors as the Commander in Chief.

To MAJOR JOHN BURROWES[8]

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 22, 1780.

Sir: You will march the detachment under your command to Brunswick; the object of it is to guard a quantity of flour deposited there until it can be brought away. When the Waggons begin to move it you will be pleased to give me notice, and also when the whole is nearly taken away. As a detachment of the Army at that place (which is by no means safe) will be an additional motive for the Enemy to make some attempt there, I must entreat you to use every precaution that may be necessary to guard against a surprise.[9]

[5] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[6] Col. Walter Stewart.

[7] Maj. Lemuel Trescott, of Jackson's Additional Continental regiment, which was designated the Sixteenth Massachusetts Regiment in July, 1780. He was transferred to the Ninth Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1781, to the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783, and to the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment in June, 1783; served to November, 1783.

[8] Maj. John Burrowes (Burroughs), of Spencer's Additional Continental regiment. He retired in January, 1781.

[9] The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

To LUCAS VAN BEAVERHOUT[10]

Camp, Morris Town, April 22, 1780.

Sir: I took the earliest occasion to communicate your request to His Excellency and the Minister of France, after they returned Yesterday evening. They are both very sensible of your politeness, and would circumstances permit they would do themselves the pleasure of dining with You; but the Minister's engagements as long as he can remain in this quarter and the necessity of his returning to Philadelphia, as soon as these are over, will prevent him. And immediately after his departure, the General expects to be engaged in some important business with a Committee of Congress. His Excellency, the Ambassador, in staying as long as he will, will exceed the time he at first intended. I have the Honour &c.[11]

To NICHOLAS CRUGER

Head Quarters, April 22, 1780.

Sir: Colo. Hamilton has communicated to me your Favor of the 18th. I have considered the request you were pleased to make for permission to return to New York and beg leave to inform You that I do not think myself authorised to grant it. I hope this will not be attended with any personal inconveniences to Yourself or with any embarrassments to your friends in New York. I have the Honor etc.[12]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 23, 1780.

Sir: Your coming to Morris as you wish tomorrow will be agreeable to me, and I request that should you give permission

[10] Van Beaverhout lived at Beaverwick, near Troy, Morris County, N. J.
[11] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "R. K. H[arrison]."
[12] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

to any of the Officers at the Post to accompany you that you would enjoin them to return at night. The Enemy from the occasion which brings you here may be led to think that we shall be off our guard and attempt to enterprise something. I wish you to give directions for the Troops to be in as compact order as possible, and to lay on their Arms tomorrow night. I am &c.[13]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 23, 1780.

Gentlemen: I had yesterday the honor to receive your Letters of the 13th and 17th Instant, with their inclosures. With respect to the Boats and other articles which make the subject of the first, I beg leave to inform the Board that I do not know that there will be any objection to selling them, except such a part of the Tar as they may think it necessary to keep. The state of our Treasury and the necessity we are in for money seem to require that we should obtain a supply by every practicable means.

From the present situation of affairs It does not appear to me probable, that we shall carry on any extensive operations in the Western quarter this Campaign, and therefore that there cannot be at any rate an occasion for the number of Tents which Colo. Brodhead has requested. And if the incursions of the Savages should make it necessary to collect a body of Militia, yet from the light desultory service in which they would be engaged, Tents would be improper, as they would greatly embarrass and impede their movements, and besides, in our present circumstances, the supply I should suppose would be impracticable. It may however be well perhaps to send Colo. Brodhead a few Horsemens Tents and a very small

[13] The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

number fit for Soldiers, as they may be useful in case of sickness and on some other occasions.

The Board will be pleased to receive again the Returns they were so obliging as to send me some time ago, and also returns of the Men in Moylan's Regimt. of the same kind, which were never given in till yesterday. I have the Honor etc.[14]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Sunday, April 23, 1780.

Parole Je Vaux. Countersigns D'Orvilliers, Du Chaffault.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Craig / Major Hamilton[15] / Brigade Major, Hand's Brigade

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Monday, April 24, 1780.

Parole Maurepas. Countersigns Montbarre, Neckar.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Brigadier General Clinton / Lieut Colonel Commandant Weissenfels / Brigade Major, Maxwell's Brigade

For Detachment Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Butler[16] and Major T. Moore.[17]

A Subaltern from General Clinton's Brigade to be sent immediately to Pluckemin to relieve one from Hand's brigade superintending the Hospital at that place. He will receive his instructions from the Officer to be relieved.

[14] The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade and Robert Hanson Harrison.

[15] Maj. James Hamilton, of the Second Pennsylvania Regiment. He retired in January, 1783.

[16] Lieut. Col. Commandant William Butler, of the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment.

[17] Maj. Thomas Lloyd Moore, of the Ninth Pennsylvania Regiment.

At a General Court martial of the Line held the 17th. instant; Colonel J. Livingston,[18] president, Doctor McCarty[19] of the 4th. Pennsylvania regiment appear'd before the Court charg'd with "Scandalous and Ungentlemanlike behavior in seizing Captain Pell on the evening of the 29th. of January last with several others and forcibly putting him out of the room of a public house and for taking his sword from him with the assistance of others and breaking it and for taking a stick and following him into the passage of the House after he was forced out of the room"

To which he pleaded "Not Guilty."

The Court having fully and maturely considered the charge against Doctor McCarty and the Evidence are of opinion that the Charge is not supported and do acquit him of the same

The Commander in Chief approves the opinion of the Court

Doctor McCarty is released from Arrest.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Tuesday, April 25, 1780.

Parole Tingre. Countersigns Noailles, Beauview.

Of the Day Tomorrow	Brigade General Hand Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Hubley Brigade Major, 1st. Pennsylvania brigade

All the Officers and men belonging to Colonel Dayton's regiment now in Camp are to march tomorrow morning and join the detachment under Major Burrows who with the officers

[18] Col. James Livingston.

[19] Dr. Charles McCarter (McCarty). He retired in January, 1781.

and men from the other regiments of the Jersey Brigade will immediately return to Camp.

The Commander in Chief at the request of the Minister of France has the pleasure to inform Major General the Baron de Steuben and the officers and men of the four Battalions that the appearance and manœuvres of the Troops yesterday met His entire Approbation and afforded him the highest Satisfaction.[20]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Wednesday, April 26, 1780.

Parole Sunbury. Countersigns Sussex, Steuben

Of the Day Tomorrow { Brigadier General Irvine / Lieutenant Colonel Robinson / Brigade Major, 2d Pennsa. Brigade

His Excellency the Minister of France was pleas'd to express in the warmest Terms His Approbation of the Troops in the review of yesterday.[21] Applause so honorable cannot but prove a new motive to the emulous exertions of the Army.

The General has seen with peculiar satisfaction the Zeal of all ranks to manifest their respectful attachment to a Gentleman, who to the title of being the Representative of the illustrious Friend and Ally of these States adds that of having given distinguished proofs during his residence amongst us of the sincerest disposition to advance their Interest.

[20] The maneuvers performed by the 4 battalions are described in a paper in the writing of Alexander Hamilton (Apr. 24, 1780) in the *Washington Papers*. It is evidently a copy of Baron Steuben's order of the exercises and is indorsed by Washington.

"At a general review at Morris Town, on Monday last, the troops went through their various firings and evolutions with the greatest exactness, which gave infinite satisfaction to several Foreign Gentlemen of distinction that were present."—*The New Jersey Journal*, Apr. 26, 1780.

[21] On April 25 the whole Continental Army maneuvered. The directions for this are also in the *Washington Papers*, under date of Apr. 24, 1780, in an unidentified hand, indorsed by Washington.

To JAMES BOWDOIN

Morris Town, [April 26,] 1780.

Sir: I am much obliged to you for your favour of the 6th instant transmitting me a copy of the plan proposed for the constitution of your state. I have not yet had leisure to give it an attentive consideration, but from a cursory view it appears to me to be a very judicious one, and to possess all the requisites towards securing the liberty and happiness of individuals, and at the same time giving energy to the administration. This last indeed is essential to the former, though unfortunately in some of our constitutions it has not been sufficiently consulted. It is of great importance that a state which is of so much weight in the union as that of Massachusetts, should have a well combined and vigorous government, and nothing will give me greater pleasure than to learn that the people have adopted one which answers this description.

Accept my thanks for your communication of the advice from Mr. Adams.[22] It corresponds with my expectations; though very little with our circumstances. It is devoutly to be wished this Campaign may be the last. I have the honor etc.[23]

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN LAURENS

Head Quarters, Morris-town, April 26, 1780.

My dear Laurens: I have received your letters of the 14th. Feby and 14th. of March, and am much obliged to you for the Military details they contain. I sincerely lament that your

[22] "By a Letter in January from our Peace-Ambassador Mr. Adams, so far as he then had the means of judging, he did not expect to have any thing to do in the business of his department, at least for this year: so that another Campaign seems unavoidable."—*Bowdoin to Washington*, Apr. 6, 1780. Bowdoin's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[23] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

prospects are not better than they are. The impracticability of defending the bar, I fear, amounts to the loss of the town and garrison. At this distance it is difficult to judge for you, and I have the greatest confidence in General Lincolns prudence; but it really appears to me that the propriety of attempting to defend the Town depended on the probability of defending the bar, and that when this ceased the attempt ought to have been relinquished. In this however I suspend a definitive judgment, and wish you to consider what I say as confidential. Since your last to me I have received one from General Lincoln of the 24th. of March, in which he informs me that the enemy had gotten a Sixty four gun ship with a number of other Vessels over the bar and that it had been determined to abandon the project of disputing the passage by Sullivans Island, and to draw up the Frigates to the Town and take out their Cannon. This brings your affairs nearer to a dangerous crisis, and increases my apprehensions.

You will have learnt from General Lincoln that a second detachment had sailed from New York the 7th. Instt., supposed to be destined to reinforce Sir Henry Clinton. I have not yet ascertained all the particular Corps, but know that the 42d., the Irish Volunteers, Queens Rangers, and some foreign Troops are of the number, and have every reason to believe the total is what I mentioned to him, from 2000 to 2500. They appeared a few days since off Chesapeak bay, but immediately continued their voyage.

I have just received an acct. of the arrival of 47 Transports the 24th. Instt. at New York from South Carolina, and that there were strong Symptoms of another embarkation. This circumstance is to me not of easy explanation. I should imagine that Sir Henry Clinton's present force was equal to his object, and that he would not require more. The garrison of

New York and its dependencies, at this time, cannot much exceed 8000 Men; a number barely sufficient for its defence; and not with propriety admitting a diminution. Perhaps however, counting upon our weakness, the enemy may determine to hazard something here, the more effectually to prosecute and secure conquest to the Southward; or perhaps he may only intend to detach a force for a temporary diversion in Virginia or No. Carolina, to return afterwards to New-York. I expect more certain advice to day, and should it confirm the first, any demonstrations it may be in our power to make to retard or prevent the embarkation shall be put in practice; but unfortunately we have very little in our power.

In both your letters you express a wish that I should come to the Southward. Though I cannot flatter myself with the advantages you look for from such a step, yet if it were proposed by Congress I confess to you I should not dislike the journey, did our affairs in this quarter permit it. But unluckily the great departments of the Army are now in total confusion and Congress have just appointed a Committee in conjunction with me to new model and rectifie them. Till this is done I could not leave this Army. And were not this obstacle in the way you will easily conceive I must have many scruples which forbid me to let the measure in question originate with me. But all this for your private ear.

Be assured my dear Laurens that I am extremely sensible to the expressions of your attachment, and that I feel all for you in your present situation which the warmest friendship can dictate. I am confidant you will do your duty and in doing it you must run great hazards. May success attend you, and restore you with fresh laurels to your friends, to your Country, and to me. With every sentiment of regard and Affection. I am &c. [H. S. P.]

*To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, Morris-town, April 26, 1780.

Sir: I am just returned from a visit to Mr. D'Miralles, and am happy to inform your Excellency, that *if* he has experienced any change since you left him, it is for the better. His Fever and pulse, tho' he had a very restless night the last, are now moderate and regular, and his hic-cough has entirely left him. These are symptoms which the Doctor considers as rather favourable, but I am unhappy they are not such as enable him to determine that the prospect of his recovery is either certain, or flattering.

I pray you to make an offer of my respects to Mr. Marbois, and do me the justice to believe that, with much consideration, and great personal attachment, I have the honor, etc.[24]

To COLONEL GOOSE VAN SCHAICK

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 27, 1780.

Sir: I am sorry to find by yours of the 15th. that Indian Ravages have again began upon your frontiers, but as the Congress have authorised the State to take 800 Militia into Continental pay, I am in hopes their incursions will be checked. I shall direct an additional quantity of powder and Lead to be sent up to the Magazine at Albany. I am &c.

P. S. The Maryland and Delaware Lines having marched to the southward you will be pleased to send all the Men belonging to them, who are fit to remove, down to Fishkill, from whence I shall give orders to have them brought forward.[25]

[24] The text is from a photostat of the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

[25] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To MAJOR JOHN BURROWES

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 27, 1780.

Sir: I have received Your Letter of Yesterday and wish you may be supplied with Waggons to day as you expected for moving the Stores. They cannot as I observed before be got away too soon, and I doubt not of your exertions to effect it. When matters appear to be in good train for it and you are on the point or have a good prospect of putting the whole in motion, You will advise me and I will then give You further Orders with respect to your Detachment. I am, etc.[26]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 27, 1780.

Sir: As the inclosed representation from Capt. Schott to me implies that some steps have been taken by the Board respecting the incorporation of his and Capt. Selins Companies, with the German Battalion, I have not thought proper to give any opinion upon it, until I am informed how far the representation agrees with the measures which the Board may have adopted upon the occasion. I have the honor etc.[27]

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 27, 1780.

Sir: I have, at the intercession of the Govr. of this State, consented to the exchange of Captain Pitcairne[28] a Continental prisoner of War for Captain Fitzrandolph of the Jersey Militia. You will therefore be pleased to carry the exchange into

[26] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.
[27] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[28] Capt. Thomas Pitcairn, of the Eighty-second Foot, British Army.

execution as speedily as possible and as the State will thereby become indebted to the Continent for an Officer of the Rank of a Captain, you will take occasion, whenever an opportunity offers, of procuring payment. I am &c.

P. S. Inclosed you have a passport for Captain Pitcairne.[29]

*To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Morris-town, April 27, 1780.

Sir: I have the honor to inform your Excellency, that Mr. De Miralles had a more refreshing Night, the last, than usual, attended with other favourable symptoms; but his pulse, at times, is irregular and fluttering. Upon the whole, the Doctors think him better, though they dare not pronounce him past danger. If he should continue well through this day, and the succeeding night, I shall entertain the pleasing hope of his recovery. With much personal regard etc.[30]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 27, 1780.

Dear Sir: I am informed by Lt. Colo. Stevens, at present the commanding Officer of Colonel Lambs Regiment of Artillery, that there are four Companies in that Regiment, which were raised in Connecticut, and have been adopted and supplied by the State, for which reason, he has desired liberty to send an Officer from each Company on the recruiting service, not doubting but they will be allowed the same priviledges and Bounties as are granted to those recruiting for the Line. Not knowing what arrangements you may have made, I have

[29] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[30] From a photostat of the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

directed the Officers to apply to your Excellency before they enter upon the Business, that they may not interfere with any regulations which may have been made for obtaining the deficiency of the quota of your State. I have the honor &c.[31]

To MAJOR MOSES KNAPP[32]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 27, 1780.

Sir: I have recd. yours of the 30th: ulto. As the Artillery and Dragoons must either be obtained by inlistment or by draught from the line, the latter of which is a very disagreeable mode, it has been thought expedient to permit those Corps to engage Men whose times of service were expiring in the Infantry and who would not reinlist in that service. If the Man in question comes within the above description and has served his full time in the Regiment to which he formerly belonged, he may, in my opinion, be claimed by the Officer of Cavalry by whom he was inlisted anew. The State to which the Man properly belongs is in no degree injured by this, as she has credit for all the Men serving in the detached Corps. I am &c.[33]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 27, 1780.

Dr Sir: I have been honored with yours of the 25th: inclosing a Certificate from Mr. Boudinot that Colo. Billop[34] after he was the first time taken by the Militia, was exchanged for

[31] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

[32] Of the Eleventh Massachusetts Regiment. He was transferred to the Tenth Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1781, and to the Fifth Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783; served to June, 1783.

[33] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[34] Col. Christopher Billop, New York loyalist.

Colo. Atlee a Continenetal Officer: But as Colo. Billop was the last time taken by a party of Continental troops and exchanged for Colo. Reynolds of the Militia, the account between the State and Continent, so far as Billop is concerned, seems settled. However, as the relief of so valuable an Officer as Capt. Fitzrandolph, is made by the enemy to depend upon exchanging Capt. Pitcairne for him, I shall give directions to the Commy. General of prisoners to send him in and to call for Capt. Fitzrandolph in return. The state will thereby become indebted to the Continent for an Officer of the Rank of Capn. which they must take the first opportunity of paying. I have the honor etc.[35]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Thursday, April 27, 1780.

Parole Woodbridge. Countersigns Tunis, Ulm.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Livingston / Lieutenant Colonel Hay / Brigade Major, Clinton's Brigade

A Detachment to be paraded Tomorrow morning 9 o'Clock on the Grand Parade with two days' Provisions and 40 rounds pr. man to be commanded by Major Trescott. A Surgeon or mate from the 1st. Pennsylvania Brigade to join the Detachment.

On Monday next the 1st. of May the Arms, Accoutrements and Ammunition of the Pennsylvania Division will be inspected by the Inspector General.

On Tuesday the 2d. of May, Hand's and Maxwell's and on Wednesday the 3d. of May Clinton's and Stark's.

The Divisions on the Day of Inspection are to furnish no Guards except their proportion of the Detachment at Peramus

[35] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

which is to be Inspected tomorrow on the Grand Parade and every man to be present without exception.

All supernumerary Arms &ca. to be produced; for this the Colonels will be answerable.

The Conductors will be present at the Inspection to receive the Arms &ca. found not fit for service which are to be delivered in to the Field Commissary except such as can be immediately repaired.

Each Regiment to make out a Return of Arms &ca. Wanting; the Returns to be made out before the Inspector General leaves the Parade; signed by the commanding officer of the regiment and countersigned by the Major of Brigade.

These Returns to be delivered to the Sub Inspector the day after the Inspection of the Divisions respectively who are to make out like Returns of the Divisions sign and deliver them the day after to the Inspector General.

Where there is no Conductor the Major of Brigade will appoint a Quarter master to do that duty.

The Eldest Major of Brigade in Clinton's and Stark's brigades will do the duty of Sub-inspector for the Division composed of those Brigades.

Congress having been pleased to appoint George Augustine Washington an Ensign in the second Regiment of Virginia, he is to do Duty in the Commander in Chief's Guards untill further Orders.

To MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 28, 1780.

My Dear Sir: Since my last of the 15th. Inst. I am favoured with your two letters of the 4th and 24th. of March. The advices you give me greatly increase my anxiety for the fate of Charles Town and the State of South Carolina; and you will

believe that my solicitude is not unmixed with considerations of personal friendship. The loss of the bar is a very serious loss. I hope it may not be a fatal one. This consolation however offers itself, that the honour of our arms is safe in your hands, and that, if you must fall you will not fall without a vigorous struggle.

The Fleet with troops mentioned in mine of the 15th sailed the seventh from the Hook. It has been since seen off Chesapeak, but immediately prosecuted its voyage. I have yet had no sufficiently distinct account of the corps composing the detachment; but all subsequent intelligence confirms the idea I gave you of the total number.

I am just informed that four days ago arrived at New York forty one transports from the Southward and that a further embarkation is preparing. I confess I am at a loss to interpret this circumstance. With the late reinforcement it would seem that Sir Henry's force needed not an augmentation of numbers and the garrison of New York cannot well afford to be reduced lower. The enemy however may choose to risk something here to be able to act with more effect to the Southward, or they may only intend a temporary detachment for a diversion in Virginia or North Carolina, to return afterwards to New York. If my advices are confirmed I shall endeavor to make demonstrations which may delay or change their intentions; but this is not easy in our present circumstances.

The Maryland division marched from this Camp the [Seventeenth]. The deranged state of our finances, makes every operation difficult and tedious: but every thing will be done to render the progress of these troops as expeditious as possible.

Assure yourself of my constant wishes for your welfare and success and that I am etc.[36]

[36] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The word in brackets was added by Washington.

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 28, 1780.

Dr. Sir: Col. Hay[87] delivered me your letter of the 18th April. It is lamentable that we should be obliged to experience such distresses as we do every where. Those we feel here are not inferior to yours; we are constantly on the point of starving for want of provision and forage. A deficiency of money is the cause and a cause for which the present situation of affairs renders it infinitely difficult to provide a remedy. We are at a most delicate crisis; I dread with you the consequences.

We are informed there is an arrival of 47 transports from South Carolina at New York and that there are appearances of a further embarkation. It may be of use to make demonstrations of a movement on our part. I should be glad so far as it can be done without interfering with the necessary operations and without incurring expense, that you would set on foot a collection of boats on the river; have them inspected and some little repairs made. Some time since you were directed at your own instance to have all the fascines and gabions which had been provided in expectation of Count D'Estaing last fall deposited within the works. If this has not been effected, you will be pleased to have it done. They may possibly be of future utility and the act of removing them will contribute to our present purpose. A number were provided below Stoney point where the Virginia troops lay. You will not forget to remove these also to a place of security.

General Du Portail being gone to the Southward, it is necessary that Colonel Gouvion should repair to this army. If there are any previous arrangements you wish him to make, you will be pleased to direct him to make them and to set out for Head Quarters as speedily as he can.

[87] Col. Udny Hay.

It has been represented to me, that cattle coming on for this army have been stopped by some of your Commissaries for the use of the Garrison. As the purchasing Commissary makes a distribution in the first instance and always takes care to send a proportion to the posts under your command, any interference of this kind is irregular and improper. You will be pleased to give orders to prevent it in future. Our wants here are so extreme that the supplies intended for this part of the army cannot be diverted to any other without risking the most serious consequences.

The state of our arsenals makes the greatest care and œconomy indispensable. I wish you to pay a pointed attention that the men whose times of service expire do not at leaving the army, carry away the public arms with them. Such who may have brought arms of their own with them for which they have not been paid and which have been exchanged for better, they must as far as may be practicable return those they now have and receive their own. You will make the commandants of batalions particularly responsible for carrying this into execution.

The Maryland division being gone to the Southward, all the men belonging to it in the Hospitals at Albany are directed to be sent to Fish Kill. When arrived there you will take measures to have them and those now at Fish Kill forwarded to this place. Should they want any little necessaries of shoes &c. you will have them supplied. I am etc.[38]

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 28, 1780.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's Letter of the 18th Instant. I am sorry to find the Council are

[38] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

apprehensive that difficulties will attend the collecting of the supplies required of the State, by the Resolution of Congress of the 25th of February; but I cannot see that it is in my power to prevent them in any degree. Your Excellency and the Council will perceive on recurring to the proceedings, that all I could do on the occasion, was to appoint such places of deposit in each State for the articles they were to furnish respectively, as I should judge convenient, or in other words accomodated to the Public service. This I have endeavoured to do in the best manner I was able, from a full consideration of all circumstances, as well with respect to Pennsylvania as to every other State; and I am happy in the persuasion that Your Excellency and the Council will believe it has been the case. It was owing I imagine to the pressing necessity of the case and the very unhappy state of our Public finance, that this mode of obtaining supplies was adopted; and it appears evidently to me, to be the spirit and the expectation of the system, founded I suppose in the same unhappy necessity which led to the requisition for specific supplies, that each State should transport the articles they are to furnish, to the places appointed within them as deposits.

With respect to the representation of the field officers of the Pennsylvania line, which Your Excellency has been pleased to transmit me, it leads without doubt to consequences of an important and interesting nature. The objects in general to which it goes are of such magnitude and delicacy, that I cannot undertake, either to decide or hardly to give an opinion upon them. It is however certainly to be wished and the general interest requires it, that the Regiments which the Public think proper to keep up, should be made more respectable than they are in many instances at present. How this is to be effected is with

the particular States to determine. But two modes occur to me, either to do it by voluntary enlistments or by drafting. Most of the States from which I have heard, have in consequence of the late requisition of Congress adopted the former, and it is said the business is attended with some success; but should this not be the case, the States must if they mean to continue the War, have recourse to the other expedient. I am also persuaded that there is too much countenance given to Deserters, and if proper Laws could be devised and effectually executed against those that do it, that our force would be much more respectable than it is at present. There have been many instances where Deserters which have been apprehended by Officers, have been rescued by the People, and but very few where the Officers have received their aid and support. As to a reduction and incorporation of the Regiments, it must depend on Congress, and be the effect probably of some general system of arrangement. I have expected for some days past a Committee at Camp; whose powers possibly may extend to this point. If they do and the measure is thought eligible and adopted, it will I suppose of course, comprehend a plan of provision for the Officers who are reduced. The wishes of the Legislature with respect to the Independent Companies of Artillery, will also be without doubt in such case, attended to and the incorporation made if it can be done.

With respect to the depreciation of the money, and making it up to the Officers and Soldiers, it were to be wished that it could be the result of some common general system, that all might stand upon an equal footing. But whether this will or can be the case, I cannot pretend to say. Most if not the whole of the New England States as I have understood, have acted upon the matter and provided for it in the instance of their

Troops; but I do not know the principles on which they have conducted this business. This being the case with respect to them, those of the other States who have the same pretensions, will naturally expect relief from some quarter. It is certain, the depreciation of the money has operated with singular severity against the Army, as their pay has not been encreased and gives them an equitable claim to a compensation; but it may be a matter of difficulty to say how the compensation should be made. If it is to be in money, the payment at a future day would be attended with less injury to the Public and more advantage to those receiving it, as our finances would then be in a better train and of course the money more valuable; whereas at this time it would require a very extraordinary emission and add to the Public embarrassments, while it afforded but little or no relief to the parties. I have the honor etc.[39] [H.S.P.]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 28, 1780,
7 O'Clock P. M.

Sir: I am sorry to inform Your Excellency, that the Honble Don Juan de Miralles died to day about Noon, after a severe illness of Ten days. His remains will be interred to morrow in a manner suited to his rank. I have the Honor etc.[40]

[39] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

[40] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

On April 28 Washington had written to Luzerne that Miralles was worse. "He had a restless night, and his fever is increased. His throat is now so sore that it is with difficulty he can be nourished, and besides this, his respiration is bad. Symptoms so unfavourable in the advanced stages of a disorder, afford little hope of recovery, especially in a person of Mr. de Miralles's age. . . . Mr. de Miralles is growing worse; he is now in a delirium." Washington's later letter to Luzerne (April 28) said Miralles died "about three Oclock this afternoon." Both these drafts are in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6. Thacher's *Military Journal* states that Miralles died of "a pulmonic fever."

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 28, 1780.

Sir: I have the Honor to acknowledge Your Excellency's dispatches of the 15th. which have been duly received. Colo Ward, whose appointment to the Office of Commissary of Prisoners they communicate, went to the Eastward soon after he returned from Philadelphia. It is probable Your Excellency was acquainted with this circumstance; however I have thought it material to mention it, that you might know in case you were not, where to write to him upon the subject. From Colo. Wards assiduity and his great and uniform zeal for the service and interest of the States, there is every reason to believe, if he accepts the appointment, that he will give satisfaction and fully answer the expectations of Congress.

I inclose Your Excellency a New York paper of the 25th, which probably contains later advices from the Southward than You have received. If these Accounts are true, Our affairs in that quarter are in a disagreeable situation. I have the Honor etc.[41]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Friday, April 28, 1780.

Parole Amsterdam. Countersigns A., X.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Johnson[42] / Lieutenant Colonel Huntington[43] / Brigade Major, Stark's Brigade

A Serjeant Corporal and Twelve men from General St. Clair's Division for Fatigue Tomorrow to be under the direction of Mr. Shute.

[41] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.
[42] Col. Francis Johnston, of the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment.
[43] Lieut. Col. Ebenezer Huntington, of Webb's Additional Continental regiment.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Saturday, April 29, 1780.

Parole Havannah. Countersigns Harlaem, Kent.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Cortlandt / Lieutenant Colonel Mentges / Brigade Major, Hands Brigade

At the General Court martial whereof Brigadier General Hand was president Captain Alexander Mitchel[44] of the first New Jersey Regiment was tried for "Ungentlemanlike behavior in stabbing Lieutenant Burroughs[45] of the same regiment with a hanger and for repeating the Blow in a cowardly and scandalous manner whereby his life was endangered."

The Court are of opinion that although the Facts of Captain Mitchel's stabbing Lieutenant Burroughs with a hanger and having repeated the Blow are proved yet considering the provocation he received from Lieutenant Burroughs they are of opinion that Captain Mitchel's conduct was not Unofficerlike, Ungentlemanlike, Cowardly or Scandalous and They do therefore acquit Captain Mitchel of those Charges.

The Commander in Chief is sorry to find himself obliged to disapprove the Sentence; He does not consider the provocation sufficient to justify the attempt upon the life of Lieutenant Burroughs while unprepared to defend himself; Other less exceptionable modes of satisfaction might and ought to have been adopted by Captain Mitchel. He is released from Arrest.

Lord Stirling's Division to relieve the Main Guard and picquet at Morristown Tomorrow. The Division commanded by General Clinton on Monday. The Pennsylvania Division Tuesday, General Clinton's Division to relieve the small detached

[44] He served to April, 1783.

[45] Lieut. Eden Burrowes (Burroughs). He served to November, 1783.

Guards of the Pennsylvania Division Tomorrow. The Pennsylvania Division to relieve those from Lord Stirling's Monday afternoon; and Lord Stirling's those from Clinton's Division Tuesday afternoon.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Sunday, April 30, 1780.

Parole Mirailes. Countersigns Madrid, Moro.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Jackson[46] / Lieutenant Colonel Murray[47] / Brigade Major, Maxwell's Brigade

The Honorable the Congress have been pleased to pass the following Resolutions:

In Congress, April 10, 1780.

Resolved, That when Congress shall be furnished with proper documents to liquidate the depreciation of the continental bills of credit, they will, as soon thereafter as the state of the public finances will admit, make good to the line of the army, and the independent corps thereof, the deficiency of their original pay, occasioned by such depreciation; and that the money and articles heretofore paid or furnished, or hereafter to be paid or furnished by Congress or the states or any of them, as for pay, subsistence or to compensate for deficiencies, shall be deemed as advanced on accompt, until such liquidation as aforesaid shall be adjusted; it being the determination of Congress, that all the troops serving in the continental army shall be placed on an equal footing; provided that no persons shall have any benefit of this resolution except such as were engaged during the war, or for three years, and are now in service, or shall hereafter engage during the war.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report a proper compensation to the staff of the army in consequence of the depreciation of the currency.[48]

[46] Col. Henry Jackson, of an Additional Continental regiment.

[47] Lieut. Col. John Murray, of the Second Pennsylvania Regiment. He retired in January, 1781.

[48] The members chosen were Samuel Holten, Nathaniel Peabody, and Thomas Burke.

Lieutenant James McFarland[49] 1st. Pennsylvania Regiment is appointed Adjutant to the same from the 1st. of March last vice Lieutenant Hughes[50] resigned.

To COLONEL JOHN BAILEY[51]

Head Quarters, Morristown, April 30, 1780.

Sir: I have been favd. with yours of the inst. and am sorry to find that the particular circumstances mentioned by you lay you under the necessity of quitting the service. Having made it a rule whenever applications of a similar nature have been made to me by Officers of your Rank to refer them to Congress, I must request you to signify your intentions to them and await their determination.

Should it please Congress to accept your resignation, I hope you will obtain by a retirement from the fatigues of a military life, a perfect recovery of your health. I am &c.[52]

To GOVERNOR DIEGO JOSÉ DE NAVARRO[53]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, April 30, 1780.

Sir: I am extremely sorry to communicate to your Excellency, the painful intelligence of the death of Don Juan De Mirailles. This unfortunate event happened at my quarters the day before yesterday and his remains were yesterday interred, with all the respect due to his character and merit. He did me the honor of a visit in company with the minister of France, and was seized the day of his arrival with a violent

[49] Lieut. James McFarlane (McFarland). He served to November, 1783.
[50] Lieut. John Hughes.
[51] Of the Second Massachusetts Regiment. He resigned in October, 1780.
[52] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[53] Don Diego José de Navarro. He was Governor and Captain-General of Cuba.

biliary complaint, which after nine days continuance, put a period to his life, notwithstanding all the efforts of the most skilful physicians we were able to procure. Your Excellency will have the goodness to believe that I took pleasure in performing every friendly office to him during his illness and that no care or attention in our power was omitted towards his comfort or restoration. I the more sincerely sympathize with you in the loss of so estimable a friend, as ever since his residence with us, I have been happy in ranking him among the number of mine. It must however be some consolation to his connexions, to know that in this country he has been universally esteemed and will be universally regretted.

May I request the favour of your Excellency to present my respects to the lady and family of our deceased friend and to assure them how much I participate in their afflictions on this melancholy occasion? I have the honor etc.[54]

To JAMES W. WATSON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 1, 1780.

Sir: I have recd. your favor. of the 24th ulto: informing me of your being appointed by the State of Connecticut to purchase the quota of Rum and Hay required by Congress, and desiring to be made acquainted with the places of deposit. I have already, in conformity to the tenor of the Resolve, pointed out to His Excellency Governour Trumbull the different places at which the several Articles required are to be deposited, and which I make no doubt he will communicate to you; but lest some delay may attend his dispatches, you will be pleased to observe that the following are the places of deposit for the Rum and Hay in the proportions affixed to each.

[54] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

	Gallons Rum	Tons of Hay
Danbury	10,000	200
Waterbury	.....	100
Hartford	10,000	200
New Fairfield	48,558	...
	68,558	500

I am &c.[55]

To CAPTAIN JEREMIAH BALLARD

Head Quarters, Morristown, May 1, 1780.

Sir: I have received your favor inclosing a return of the flour &c. at Brunswick. I have only to desire that you will use every exertion to have it brought away as expeditiously as possible and make its security while there the object of your attending and also to guard your party from surprise by every necessary precaution, as it is not improbable but the enemy may attempt some enterprise against it. When the flour is all nearly brought away, I wish you to give me information of it. I am etc.[56]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Monday, May 1, 1780.

Parole Schuyler. Countersigns Matthews, Peabody.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Angell / Major Thayer / Brigade Major, 1 Pennsylva. Brigade

James Coleman a Soldier in the 11th. Pennsylvania regiment was tried on the 29th. ulto. at the General Court martial whereof Colonel Shreve is president for "Repeated Desertion

[55] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[56] The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

Forgery and disposing of his Arms and Accoutrements" Pled Guilty. The Court are of opinion that he is Guilty of a breach of the 1st. Article 6th Section and 3d. Article 12th Section of the Articles of War and do sentence him to suffer Death more than two thirds of the Court agreeing.

The Commander in Chief confirms the Sentence.

As the Stormy weather has prevented the Inspection of the Pennsylvania Division this day; the Inspection of that Division is postponed 'till tomorrow and of the others to the succeeding days agreeable to the order of the 27th. the small detached Guards to be relieved one day later than mentioned in the General order of 29th. ulto.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Tuesday, May 2, 1780.

Parole Poland. Countersigns B., O.

Of the Day Tomorrow	Colonel Spencer Major Torrey Brigade Major, 2d Pennsylva. Brigade

The Pennsylvania Line gives the Main Guard and Picquet tomorrow.

The Noncommissioned Officers and privates of Colonel Sherburn's regiment who belong to the State of Massachusett are for the present to join Colonel Jackson's regiment; those belonging to the State of Rhode Island Colonel Angell's and those belonging to the State of Connecticut Colonel Webb's they are to be included in the Muster Rolls and Payrolls of the above regiment, from the 1st. Instant.

'Till further orders all Guards and detachments are to be furnish'd with as many Cartridges as their boxes will contain and no more unless expressly ordered.

Francis Lambert of Colonel Gansevoort's regiment is to be sent to the Quarter master General's store in Morristown where he will remain 'till the regiment moves from this ground.

The Prisoners in the Provost Guard to be tried as soon as possible.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 2, 1780.

Dear sir: The inclosed Letter of the 1st. of March I received some time ago from Doctor Gordon,[57] which a variety of pressing business has prevented me from communicating before. I request your determination on the points contained in it, that I may transmit it to the Doctor. You will be pleased to return me his Letter with the inclosure to which it refers.[58] I am etc.[59]

*To BARON STEUBEN

Morris Town, May 2, 1780.

My dear Baron: My Nephew[60] waits on you to present his thanks for the honor you meant to confer on him, by appointing him one of your Aids; and, at the sametime to assign his reasons for declining the favor. If he should not be explicit in doing this, when I next have the pleasure of seeing you at head Quarters, I shall not fail to do it myself.

[57] Rev. William Gordon. His letter, dated Feb. 29-Mar. 1, 1780, is in the *Washington Papers*.

[58] The charge against Hamilton was that of making a seditious remark in a Philadelphia coffee house, to the effect that it was high time the people rose, joined General Washington, and turned Congress out. Hamilton's letter to Washington (May 2), in the *Alexander Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress, disposed of Gordon in the following words: "I shall not follow him in his labored digressions, because the scope of some of them is to me unintelligible and the rest do not merit an answer."

[59] The draft is in the writing of George Augustine Washington.

[60] George Augustine Washington.

Be assured my dear Sir, that I shall entertain a proper sense of the honor you intended my Nephew, and the compliment I should have received thereby, and that I am etc.[61]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, May 2, 1780.

Dear Sir: The Committee of Congress[62] are instructed among other matters to enquire whether there is any thing defective in the Ordnance department or whether any of the regulations at present in force may be amended or altered for the benefit of the service. I do not exactly know when they will take the Business up, but I would wish you to be revolving the matter in your mind, and preparing yourself to give the Committee such information upon the subject as may appear to you conducive to the more perfect arrangement of the System.

I have sent you by the Bearer a Copy of the Constitution of Massachusetts, which I recd. by the post, after perusing it, be pleased to return it to me, as I have not another. I am etc.[63]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Wednesday, May 3, 1780.

Parole Boston. Countersigns I., U.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Stewart / Major Reed / Brigade Major Fish }

The Main Guard and Picquets to be relieved from Lord Stirling's Division and the Pennsylvania Division

[61] The text is from a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

[62] To consult with the Commander in Chief at headquarters. The committee (Philip Schuyler, John Mathews, and Nathaniel Peabody) reached Morristown on April 28. Appointed April 13, their activities were concluded November 1. A full record of their proceedings is contained in no. 11 of the *Papers of the Continental Congress.*

[63] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

A Sub three Serjeants and Forty rank and file with their Arms Blankets and two days Provisions from these Divisions to be sent to Morristown tomorrow morning: The Officer will receive orders from the Quarter master General.

To REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 3, 1780.

Dear Sir: I received some time ago Your Letter of the 29th. of February and 1st. of March by Colo. Henley. From a multiplicity of important pressing business which I have had on hand, I was prevented from communicating it to Colo. Hamilton till Yesterday. It was then put into his hands, as you will perceive by the Inclosures No 1 and 2, a Copy of my Letter to him upon the occasion and his Answer. While I must ascribe it to your politeness, I regret that the consideration of Colo Hamilton's being a member of my family should have been a motive for bringing so disagreeable a business before me. The Gentlemen attached to me are upon the same footing with the other Officers of the Army and equally responsible for their conduct. You will pursue such a mode in the present case as You deem most effectual, but if you should think proper to exhibit any charge against Colo Hamilton cognizable by a military tribunal, you have only to signify your wish and the time You will be able to produce your witnesses, and I shall proceed in it accordingly.

[As far as the temper and disposition of the several Courts of Europe are developed, and known to *Us,* the assisting of G Britn. does not appr. to be an object with them; and yet, if we are to form a judgment from report, and indeed from appearances, the King and his Ministers are firmly resolved to prosecute the War in America with unabating vigour, depending, it is to be presumed, upon the wretched state of our money,

more than they do on the expectation of foreign aid. If the plan of finance, adopted by Congress, should receive that general support which the exigency of the times loudly call for, and which I hope, and trust, it will not fail to do from every well wisher to his Country, I believe the foundation on which the enemy have superstructed their plans will give way and leave the contrivers and authors of the present mischief to that punishment wch. an injured and deceived people are ready to inflict and which the populace of England as well as Ireland seem now to be preparing. For this purpe. a spirit is gone forth, and is now manifesting itself I hope undr. the appo. of Associatn. Comees. &ca. that it may also be the harbinger of Peace to this distressed Country, I most fervently wish.[64]

For your good wishes, you will please to accept my sincere thanks.

My best respects, in which Mrs. Washington joins, are presented to Mrs. Gordon; and complimts. to all enquiring frds. I am etc.][65]

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 3, 1780.

Sir: By a Letter I have just received from His Excellency the Governor of Maryland and One from the Honourable the Board of War upon the same subject, I find that the State, by

[64] On this same day (May 3) Germain wrote Sir Henry Clinton respecting the British Ministry's attitude at this time: "All the private Letters from the Rebel Countries are filled with representations of the general Distress and Sufferings of the People. The Discontents of the Troops, and the universal Wish for Peace. The middle Provinces are said to be so disinclined to support the Congress, that no Recruits are to be had, and the Militia will not submit to be drafted. Their only Resource for continuing the War, seemed to be a foreign Aid, which however has not yet been sent to them, and therefore I flatter myself you will have met but little interruption in your progress northward, after the Reduction of Charles Town; and that you will have sufficient time to execute your plan in the Chesapeake, or at least to establish yourself there beyond the power of any force that can be brought to dislodge you."

[65] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

whom Lt Colo Conolly was taken in 1775 and who is still a prisoner, are very desirous of having him exchanged for Lt Colo Ramsay.[66] They claim it as a right which has been exercised by other States in similar instances and which it is farther said is reserved by the late Resolutions of Congress; and they have requested that it may be carried into effect. Under these circumstances I cannot object to the exchange, and You will write to the British Commissary and make the Exchange, if he will agree to it. I am etc.[67]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Thursday, May 4, 1780.

Parole Freehold. Countersigns Fez, Foy.

Of the Day Tomorrow — Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Wessenfels
Major J. Moore
Brigade Major, Stark's Brigade

Lord Stirling's and the Pennsylvania Divisions give the Main Guard and picquet Tomorrow.

A Serjeant, Corporal and Twelve rank and file from Lord Stirling's Division for fatigue to be sent to the Adjutant General's quarters Tomorrow morning.

As part of the Army were absent when the General order relative to the pay of Officers sent on Command was publish'd on the 18th. of September last the General repeats the Order.

The little attention paid to the Resolve of Congress of the 4th. of September last published in the General Orders of

[66] Lieut. Col. Nathaniel Ramsay (Ramsey), of the Third Maryland Regiment. He was wounded and taken prisoner at Monmouth, N. J., in June, 1778, and on parole until exchanged in December, 1780. Connolly was not exchanged until near the end of the war.

[67] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

the 25th. and the number of accompts exhibited on Certificates repugnant to that Resolve; and the order accompanying it, oblige the Commander in Chief to declare that henceforth no Warrants shall be given for payment of any Accompts produced in consequence of that Resolve unless the officers applying have been detached by a special order from himself or commanding officer of a department. The mode of obtaining such order will be by a Certificate from the Major General or Brigadier from whose Division or Brigade the officer is to be sent specifying the nature and necessity of the service to be performed.

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, May 4, 1780.

Gentn: I have received the Honor of Your Letter of the 25th Ulto. with the Inclosure. In consequence of the requisition by His Excellency the Governor of Maryland, and the Board's opinion of the propriety of the claim, Mr Skinner has been directed to propose to the Enemy the exchange of Lt Colo Ramsay for Lt Colo Connolly. Previous to this, I had supposed that Citizens or Inhabitants captured by the Enemy, were the Objects to whom the Act of the 13th of January meant a preference should be given in exchanges for prisoners taken by particular States, and that all Officers in captivity were to stand upon a common footing to be released on the usual principle of priority of capture. But be this as it may, the Act is only recommendatory and the Council of Maryland have settled the point in the present case in favor of a Military Officer, by claiming his exchange and the rights that have been exercised on several similar occasions by Other States. The indulgence has never been directed, in any instance, to a more deserving Officer than Colo Ramsay. He set out for New York

yesterday and would carry the proposition for his release. I have the Honor etc.[68]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, Morristown, May 4, 1780.

Dr Sir: By a letter just rec'd from Col Dayton I am informed that a detachment of the Enemy, supposed to be about 1500 is preparing to make a stroke at our provisions at Brunswick. They have Boats in readiness for the expedition. I therefore wish you immediately to march as many of your detachment as you conveniently can spare that way in order to give opposition to such an attempt. I have directed a Body of men to march from this place for the same purpose. I am &c.

P. S. As the Commanding officer of Col Daytons Regt. at Brunswick, has notice of the Enemy's intention, it will be well to inform him of yr march immediately.[69]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, Morristown, May 4, 1780,
6 O Clock Eveng.

Dr Sir: I wrote to you an hour or two ago, requesting that you would march as many of the Troops under your command as you could conveniently spare, towards Brunswick; since which I am informed by Col Stewart the Commy of Issues who was there the day before yesterday that there is every reason to believe that all the flour &c. is removed from that place. It therefore becomes unnecessary for you to put the detachment in motion, and I request should you have given

[68] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.
[69] The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

orders for that purpose before this reaches you that you would prevent its march. I am etc.

P. S. As the Stores at Brunswick was the supposed object of the Enemy, it will be well for you to be much on yr guard.[70]

To HENRY CHAMPION

Head Quarters, Morristown, May 4, 1780.

Sir: I have had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 18th: and 24th: April. The Drove of 80 head of Cattle arrived this day, and were a most seasonable supply, as we had only four days Meat on hand. I am lead to hope from your letters that you will continue to send on farther parcels of Cattle, and I am the more encouraged in this, as Colo. Blaine informs me that a supply of Money has been forwarded to you. I had, upon the rect. of your first letter, written to General Howe and pointed out to him the ill consequences attending his stopping more Cattle at the North River than were intended for the posts there, and he has assured me that nothing of the same kind shall happen again. I am etc.[71]

To GOVERNOR THOMAS SIM LEE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 4, 1780.

Sir: On the 2d. Instant I received the Honor of Your Excellency's Letter of the 8th Ulto. and also one from the Board of War on the same subject. The information the Council had received, of particular States having made exchanges of prisoners taken by them for Officers belonging to their line, was well founded. It has been done in several instances, tho' without

[70] The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.
[71] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

any interference in the business on my part, and therefore I could not but direct the Commissary of prisoners on Your Excellency's application and the Board of War's opinion that it was also warranted by a late Act of Congress respecting prisoners in the like predicament, to propose to the Enemy the Exchange of Lt Colo Ramsay for Lt Colo Conolly. For my own part I have wished to see the Exchanges of prisoners conducted on the broadest and most general footing; in the order of their captivity; as being the most equitable mode; and that all taken from the Enemy whether by the United or Individual States, should be considered as one common stock, for the common relief of Ours according to this Rule. This has been the case with respect to the prisoners made by the Army in every instance of exchanges under my direction; but the System having not entirely prevailed, Maryland has certainly the same right to benefit her Officers by those of her own capture, that other States had. And the indulgence has not been exercised in any instance in favor of a more deserving Officer than Colo Ramsay. He set out for New York yesterday and would carry with him the proposition for his release. I have the Honor etc.[72] [MD. H. S.]

*To DAVID FINNEY[73]

Morris-Town, May 5, 1780.

Sir: Your obliging favor of the 4th. Ulto. accompanying a few yards of exceeding fine and well wrought Dimety, came safe to hand.

As it is offered, you are pleased to tell me, in testimony of the esteem you entertain for me, I accept it; and shall wear it as a memento of the perfection to which manufactures of this

[72] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.
[73] One of the justices of Newcastle County, Del.

kind are brought, and of the little occasion there is of depending upon any other Country for such convenient and handsome cloth, the manufacturing of which, in the instance before us, exhibits at one view an interesting proof of your industry and art.[74]

My acknowledgments and thanks for the benefit I derive from both, and your politeness, are gratefully offered; and I am etc.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 5, 1780.

Sir: On the 28th Ulto. I received the honor of Your Excellency's several Letters of the 18th. 20th and 22d with their Inclosures.

The Act of the 10th. containing assurances for making up the depreciation of pay to the army has been published in general Orders, and will no doubt give great satisfaction.

I am much obliged by the communications in Your Excellency's Letter of the 20th. The arrival of the reinforcement at Martinique is a pleasing circumstance, and I would willingly hope that Our Allies will have a decided superiority in their Naval force in that as well as in every Other Quarter. It is infinitely interesting to us that it should be the case. With respect to the plan which it is said by the intercepted Letter,[75] the

[74] The dimity was manufactured in Finney's family.

[75] "The Plan which is now understood to be determined upon for carrying on the War, is to take a certain Number of Posts in America in such a way as to command the Trade of the Country, and to have no other Object in America than the maintaining of these Posts, and the ruling of the Trade by our Fleets. The Posts said to be fixed upon are Hallifax, Penobscott, New York, Portsmouth (in Virginia I suppose), Charlestown, Savannah and Augustine. . . . These Objects being accomplished, we understand that 12,000 Men are to be detached to the West Indies which is to be the active Seat of the War against the French and Spaniards."—Extract of a letter from a gentleman in London to a British officer in Georgia, Jan. 15, 1780, inclosed in the letter of the *President of Congress to Washington,* Apr. 20, 1780. These letters are in the *Washington Papers.*

Enemy mean to pursue, it is possible they may adopt it so far as it goes to the establishing of posts. If they do however, it will be impracticable for them to make Detachments to the West Indies unless they are reinforced. And if they pursue the first part of the plan, it must be from an impression of our embarrassments, and from an opinion that we shall not be able to act again with any vigor; as it must occasion a great division of their force, and such as at another time might be dangerous.

It is certainly interesting to the prisoners on both sides and to the general purposes of humanity, that there should be a person to act for each as an Agent. The Enemy hitherto have refused to acknowledge Mr. Pintard in a public character, but have still permitted him to reside in New York, and to do duties in some degree incident to such an appointment. It is probable they will do no more now.

I beg leave to inform Congress that it will be an agreeable circumstance, if the state of the Treasury will admit of a supply of Moneys being sent to the Military chest. There is now Four months pay due the Army, and there are frequent applications for it. The state of our provision which unhappily has been but too distressing for a long time, renders their having money however little valuable it may be, more essential than ever, to assist them in procuring necessaries. I wish our prospects of relief with respect to supplies were more promising than they are. My apprehensions are constantly up on this head, and it has often happened that there was little or no probability of our holding out for more than a few days at farthest. I was much alarmed yesterday on account of our stock of meat, but happily a few Cattle came in from Connecticut, which will assist us for the present moment. I have the Honor etc.

P. S. I inclose Your Excellency Three New York papers. By the last You will find that the Enemy have received very late advices from Europe; but nothing has transpired as yet.

I am just now informed that the Enemy believe Paul Jones is on the Coast with a small Squadron, consisting of a 44 Gun Ship, Two pretty large Frigates, and Two other Vessels of lesser size. The account is circumstantially related and as if they relied on it, and says that the Galatea had been chased into the Hook by them, and in consequence the Russel of 74 Guns and the Frigates at New York were preparing to go out in quest of them.

6th. 9 O Clock A. M.

I have this minute received a Line from the Marquis Fayette dated the 27 Ulto. announcing his arrival at the entrance of Boston Harbour. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing him in Two or three days.[76]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 5, 1780.

Gentlemen: By the inclosed letter from Colo. Putnam to General Howe, which has been transmitted by him to me, it appears that when the arrangement of the Massachusetts line was settled at West point last fall there was a mistake in dating the appointments of some of the subalterns of the 5th: Regt: occasioned by the absence of the Colonel. As this may be rectified, without interrupting the general arrangement of the line, it being confined to subalterns who rise regimentally, you will oblige me by directing new Commissions to be made out, in place of the eight inclosed, agreeable to the arrangement herewith transmitted, which Colo. Putnam informs will give satisfaction to all parties. On the 20th: March last, I returned the Board some Commissions of the subalterns of the 8th: Massachusetts Regt. under similar circumstances with the above.

[76] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

If new Commissions are made out for them, I could wish to have them forwarded, as the Officers have several times applied for them. I have the honor etc.[77]

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 5, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 27th: Ulto. and two public and one private letter of the 1st: instant. I will transmit Colo. Putnams letter and new arrangement to the Board of War and will desire them to rectify the mistakes which have happened in the dates of the Commissions of some of the Subalterns.

Major Beauman[78] will return to West point in a few days when I shall have no objection to his expending an hundred weight of powder in making experiments with Sir James Jay, provided matters are quiet and proper notice is given to the Country, to prevent their taking the firing for an alarm.

Considering the decayed state of the Gabions I think it will not be worth taking up time in bringing them all within the Works, any that are near at hand and fit for use may be secured.

The preparations of the enemy certainly indicate a movement of some kind, and as you are the most probable object, if they mean to operate against any part of our force, I can only again recommend your taking every precaution to obtain timely knowledge of their designs.

From your advices of the situation of the enemy upon Lloyds Neck I am of opinion with you that an attempt upon them would be attended with no advantages.

We have lately got ten or twelve days supply of Flour before hand, but our prospects of Meat are gloomy indeed. I have

[77] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[78] Maj. Sebastian Bauman.

directed the Commissary to send 150 Barrels of Flour immediately to Kings ferry, and if carriages can be procured, you shall in future have whatever can possibly be spared. I am convinced that the State of New York have done every thing in their power to supply the Army and I have repeatedly painted our distresses to Connecticut. The change of Commissaries and want of Money have I believe considerably deranged matters in that State, but I have some encouragement to hope a supply of Beef from Colo. Champion the purchaser of Cattle there. You will do well to procure Indian Corn, Rye or any kind of Grain, should we happily obtain flour, we can, as you observe, use the others for Forage. I some days ago, at the instance of Genl. du Portail, sollicited the Rank of Capt. of Engineers for Capt. Nivan,[79] and a Commission for him has been forwarded to Captain Rochefontain, which I will desire him to transmit. I return herewith Captain Nivans Certificates.

I shall have no objection to Colo. Gouvions remaining above untill the Works at Stoney and Verplanks points are finished, but after that it will be necessary for him, as head of the department in Genl. du Portails absence, to be near me.

I have, as I mentioned in the former part of this letter, repeatedly called upon the State of Connecticut for assistance and I cannot but hope, that the delays we have experienced have been more owing to the derangement of our Finances and indeed of all our public affairs, than to any premeditated plan to distress the Army.[80]

[79] Capt. Daniel Niven (Nevan, Nivan), of the Engineers. He served to the close of the war.

[80] Howe had written in his "private" letter of May 1: "The Quantity of Cattle which Connecticut could afford us, not one Head of which we have for many weeks had, and the great Droves of them that are as I am inform'd continually going down to Newport in Rhode Island and are sold for hard money, is not only an Alarming Circumstance, but Awakens suspicions of the Enemy's receiving them, Especially as some of my Emissaries have inform'd me, that it has been Boasted of at New York, that they constantly receive supplies of Beef from Connecticut, and that Vessels loaded with newly salted Provision have been seen going down the Sound to New York." Howe's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

I have letters from Genl. Lincoln up to the 9th: of April. The Enemy had then broke Ground upon the neck of Charles Town, about 1100 yards from our Works. General Woodford with the Virginia troops the 7th which gave great spirits to the Garrison. The Ships passed Fort Moultrie with the loss of one Transport; but the communication was still open with the Country by Coper River, which communication General Lincoln hoped to preserve by obstructing the mouth of the River. I am etc.[81]

*To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Morris-Town, May 5, 1780.

Sir: Two days since I had the honor of receiving your Excellency's letter of 29th. April.

The polite terms in which you mention the attention which my respectful attachment for you dictated during your stay in Camp adds to the obligation I felt for the honor of your visit. I was happy in that oppertunity of giving you new proofs of my sentiments and I entreat you to afford me others as frequently as possible. As the Minister of a Prince to whom America owes so much you have every title to my respect; and permit me to add, your personal qualities give you a claim which my heart chearfully acknowledges, to all my esteem and all my regard.

I beg you to accept my thanks for your intention to represent the Army in so favourable a light as will recommend it to the approbation of his most Christian Majesty; an honor as flattering as it will be precious.[82] It would be want of

[81] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[82] Hamilton's translation of Luzerne's letter of April 29 states: "I shall render an account to my Court of all that I saw at the army; of the good order and discipline of the troops; of the zeal and talents of the officers; of the good disposition reigns among them as well as of the respect and public confidence in the Commander in Chief." Luzerne's letter and Hamilton's translation are in the *Washington Papers*. Sparks

gratitude not to be convinced of the intimate concern he takes in our affairs, after the repeated and decided proofs he has given. I have the honor etc.

P S. Mrs. Washington, Sensible of your polite attention to her, prays your acceptance of her compliments and best respects.

9 Oclock A. M.

I have this instant received a Letter from my much esteemed and amiable friend the Marquis de la Fayette, dated in Boston Harbour.[83] In the course of a day or two I shall expect to see him in Camp.[84]

To BARBÉ MARBOIS

Morristown, May 5, 1780.

Sir: Any marks of consideration you may have received during your stay in camp were only a just tribute to your merit which my esteem for you made me take pleasure in paying. The manner in which you speak of them in your letter of the 29th. of April and the obliging assurances you give me, have a new title to my regard.

The opportunity which your visit to Camp afforded me of knowing you more particularly has confirmed the sentiments with which the commencement of our acquaintance impressed me; and I entreat you to be assured that there is nothing I desire more than frequent occasions of giving you proofs of the high estimation in which I hold you and of the perfect regard with which I have the honor etc.[85]

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quotes the following as a translation of part of Luzerne's report to Vergennes of May 13: "The time which I passed with General Washington has convinced me more than ever of the very great advantage, which the republic derives from his services. His virtues have gained for him the affection of the army which he commands, and the confidence and respect of the generals and other officers."

[83] In the draft are the words "the 29th of last Month."

[84] From a photostat of the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

[85] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

To FIELDING LEWIS

May 5, 1780.

[See Washington's letter of July 6, 1780.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Friday, May 5, 1780.

Parole Palmyra. Countersigns C., Q.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Butler
Major T. Moore
Brigade Major, Hand's Brigade

A Serjeant, Corporal and Twelve men from the Pennsylvania Division for Fatigue tomorrow at Commissary Kean's.[86]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 6, 1780.

Dear Sir: Brigade Major McCormick[87] of the Pennsylvania line two days ago sent his Commission and his Oath of Allegiance to the States to a Captain Wilson of the same line and went off. What makes his disappearance the more suspicious, is that he has been for some time discontented on account of his Rank, and as he came over from the enemy at Boston at the beginning of the War, there is reason to apprehend that he may endeavour to get into New York. As I imagine he is known to the Brigade Majors and Adjutants of your line, I desire that a look out may be kept for him at the posts along the

[86] John Kean. He was Assistant Commissary of Issues.
[87] Brigade-Major Henry McCormick, of Hand's brigade. He resigned May 6, 1780.

sound. Should he be found upon that quarter be pleased to have him secured and sent up. I am &c.[88]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Saturday, May 6, 1780.

Parole Philadelphia. Countersigns Brest, Brunks.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Brigadier General Clinton / Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Hubly / Brigade Major, Maxwell's Brigade

The Morristown Guards all small detached Guards and fatigue Parties 'till further orders to be furnished weekly in rotation by two Divisions while the third are to hold them selves in readiness to march on the shortest notice with two days provisions.

Lord Stirlings and Clinton's Divisions furnish the Guards the ensuing week.

The Officers Casualties are to be inserted in the Returns in the following order 1st. Sick present; 2nd. Sick absent; 3d. on Command; 4th. Extra service; 5th. on Furlough; 6th. Recruiting; 7th. on the Staff; 8th. Prisoners of War; 9th. Furloughs expired; 10th. In Arrest; 11. Vacant. The Column of Rank and File on Extra service to be inserted between the Column "on Command" and "on Furlough."

As the warm season is approaching the Commanding officers of Regiments will see that the Sick of their respective regiments are put in Huts by themselves and that proper windows and openings are made in all their soldiers huts to admit a free circulation of fresh air.

[88] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

The Regimental surgeons are to deliver in the usual returns of the sick on Monday next to the Director General of the Flying Hospital and punctually on every Monday in future.

To MAJOR WILLIAM PERKINS

Head Quarters, Morristown, May 6, 1780.

Sir: Inclosed is the duplicate of a letter which I wrote to you on the 10th ulto. but finding by a letter from Lt. Govr. Bowen of the 25th: April that you had then received no orders from me on the subject of the removal of the Ordnance and Stores from Rhode Island I am apprehensive the original may have miscarried. Governor Bowen recommends the transportation of the heavy Stores by Water to Windsor on Connecticut River, if therefore the removal of them should not have been compleated when this reaches you, you may take that method, which will save an infinite deal of land Carriage. I am &c.[89]

To DEPUTY GOVERNOR JABEZ BOWEN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 6, 1780.

Sir: I have been honored with yours of the 25th: ulto. I had upon the 10th: of April directed Major Perkins to remove such of the Ordnance and Stores, as belong to the Continent from Rhode Island to Springfield,[90] but lest my letter may have miscarried I have, by this conveyance sent him a duplicate of the order, and recommended it to him, in case they have not already been sent off, to transport the heavy stores by Water to Windsor on Connecticut River. I have the honor etc.

[89] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[90] See Washington's letter to Maj. William Perkins, Apr. 10, 1780, *ante*.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Sunday, May 7, 1780.

Parole Mississipi. Countersigns M., T.

Of the Day Tomorrow
- Brigadier General Hand
- Lieutenant Colonel Willet
- Brigade Major, 1st. Pennsylvana. Brigade

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Monday, May 8, 1780.

Parole Londonderry. Countersigns May, Marr.

Of the Day Tomorrow
- Brigadier General Irvine
- Lieutenant Colonel De Hart
- Brigade Major, 2d Pennsylva. Brigade

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 8, 1780.

Gentlemen: It appears by the inclosed Copy of a letter from Baron Steuben that about 1500 Muskets fitted with Bayonets and the same number of Bayonet Belts and Cartouch Boxes of the new construction, are wanting to compleat the troops in this Cantonment. You will be pleased therefore to direct the above quantity to be sent forward as speedily as our circumstances will admit. The Muskets which will be returned are for the most part in perfect order, except wanting Bayonets and the Cartouch Boxes are of the old kind. I am &c.[91]

[91] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Morris Town, May 8, 1780.

Dr Sir: Inclosed I send you the copy of a letter of yesterday which I have just received from Mr. Woodruff.[92] As he states the facts, Major Troupe's[93] conduct seems to have been exceptionable. But before I take any definitive part in the affair, I shall be glad you will make inquiry into the circumstances, and let me hear from you as speedily as possible.[94] The goods in the mean time are not to be disposed of. I am etc.[95]

To ISAAC WOODRUFF

Morris Town, May 8, 1780.

Sir: I have received your letter of yesterday, and have transmitted a copy of it to General Huntington directing him to inquire into the affair. When I receive his report, I shall take such steps as the circumstances of the case seem to require. In the mean time you may be assured that I shall not countenance any infringement of the rights of the civil authority; but shall be

[92] Isaac Woodruff, justice of Elizabethtown, N. J. His letter (May 7) is in the *Washington Papers*.

[93] Maj. Benjamin Throop, of the Fourth Connecticut Regiment. He was transferred to the Fifth Connecticut Regiment in January, 1781, and retired in January, 1783.

[94] Huntington answered (May 8), informing Washington of the circumstances of Throop's seizure of the goods: "There is no Exception that I have ever heard to the Character of Justice Woodruff as an upright Judge and an honest Man; but there is Reason to fear there are many Abettors (if not partners) of the London Traders as they are called, which is very discouraging to the Guards, the Permit from the Police of N York, taken with these Goods, mentions the three persons by Name were allowed to carry out certain Articles *because they had brought a large Quantity of Provisions into the City* the persons are under Bonds of 6000 to answer at Court, the goods were taken at the House of a Man (John Hendricks) who was carried in by the Enemy some Time ago and let out on Parole, for wise Purposes, no doubt. The Seizure of the said Goods has been tryed by Justice Woodruff and Part of them condemned, the Remainder by Subtlety of Law escape, and Lt. Palmer, as a Reward for his Vigilance and Pains, is held under Bonds to answer to the next superior Court for breaking the House where the Goods were found." Huntington's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[95] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

always ready to support the Magistrates in the execution of their duty and suppress all attempts to counteract them. I am etc.[96]

*To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Morris-town, May 8, 1780.

My dr. Marqs: Your welcome favour of the 27th. of April came to my hands yesterday. I received it with all the joy that the sincerest friendship could dictate, and with that impatience which an ardent desire to see you could not fail to inspire.

I am sorry I do not know your rout through the State of New York, that I might, with certainty, send a small party of Horse (all I have at this place) to meet and escort you safely through the Tory settlements between this and the North River.

At all events, Majr. Gibbs will go as far as Pompton (where the roads unite) to meet you, and will proceed from thence as circumstances may direct, either towards Kings-ferry or New Windsor.

I most sincerely congratulate with you on your safe arrival in America and shall embrace you with all the warmth of an affectionate friend when you come to head Qrs. where a bed is prepared for you. adieu till we meet. Yrs.

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 8, 1780.

Sir: By a letter from Colo. Moylan of the 24th. ulto. I am informed that Mr. Hoogland[97] of your Regt. having been arrested by Brig. Genl. Parsons "for propagating reports injurious his character &c." claims a right of being tried by Officers of the Cavalry only. He cannot be indulged in this, as the 9th:

[96] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.
[97] Capt. Jeronimus Hoogland, of the Second Continental Dragoons.

Article of the 14th. section of the Rules and Articles of War directs in what manner the Court Martial shall be composed, where a dispute arises between Officers of different Corps. I am &c.[98]

To MAJOR LEMUEL TRESCOTT[99]

Morris Town, May 9, 1780.

Sir: I received your letter of yesterday. You have my permission to endeavour to ascertain the strength of the party at Bull's ferry and to make an attempt upon it, if you think there is sufficient probability of success. You will no doubt at the same time be upon your own guard lest this party should meditate something against you. I am &c.[1]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Tuesday, May 9, 1780.

Parole Rariton. Countersigns K., P.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Livingston[2] / Lieutenant Colonel Smith[3] / Brigade Major, Clinton's Brigade

The Jersey Brigade to be held in readiness to move with their baggage on the shortest notice.

Robert Powers and Samuel Bell soldiers of the 10th. Pennsylvania regiment also Jacob Justice and Thomas Brown of the 7th. now under sentence of death for plundering the house of Mr. Cornelius Bogart near Peramus; on a representation from

[98] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[99] Of Jackson's Additional Continental regiment; also in the regiment designated the Sixteenth Massachusetts in July, 1780; transferred to the Ninth Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1781, to the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment in January, 1783, and to the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment in June, 1783; served to November, 1783.

[1] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

[2] Col. James Livingston.

[3] Lieut. Col. William Stephens Smith.

their officers that they had previous to the commission of the above crime behaved like good soldiers, and on the earnest intercession of Mr. Bogart in their behalf: His Excellency the Commander in Chief is pleased to pardon them.

At a Division general court martial whereof Lieutenant Colonel Murray[4] was president Joseph Infelt and John Earhart soldier in the 10th. Pennsylvania regiment were tried for "attempting to desert to the Enemy."

The Court were clearly of opinion that they are Guilty of the Charges exhibited against them being a breach of the 1st. Article 6th. Section of the Articles of War and Sentence them (more than two thirds of the Court agreeing thereto) to suffer Death.

The Commander in Chief confirms the Sentence.

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 9, 1780.

Dear Sir: I last evening recd. your favor of the 6th. I am pleased to hear of the good conduct and success of Capt. Cushing[5] in his enterprise against Delancey's detachment. It is to be regretted that the Colonel was himself absent at the time.[6]

Colo. Moylan had written to me on the subject of Mr. Hooglands Arrest and mode of trial, I gave it as my opinion that he was to be tried by a General Court Martial. The 9th. Article of the 14th. section of the Rules and Articles of War is expressly

[4] Lieut. Col. John Murray, of the Second Pennsylvania Regiment. He retired in January, 1781.

[5] Capt. Nathaniel Cushing, of the First Massachusetts Regiment. He was made brigade-major in December, 1781, and served to the close of the war.

[6] Cushing had been detached with a party to catch some marauders in the neighborhood of Sing Sing and, failing in this, had entered the British lines and taken 3 officers and 17 privates from the quarters of Col. James Delancey. Pursued by British dragoons, Cushing beat them off in a running skirmish of 6 miles and held his prisoners.

to the point and directs the Composition of the Court where disputes arise between Officers of different Corps. You will be pleased to order the Court accordingly. I am &c.[7]

To MAJOR JOHN BURROWES

Head Quarters, May 10, 1780.

Sir: If the Stores are removed from Brunswick or but an inconsiderable quantity remains there now, You will march with the detachment under your command to Connecticut Farms; sending an Officer on before You to Colonel Dayton to advise him of your moving and from him you will receive Orders. Colonel Dayton is at his own house or in that Neighbourhood. I am &c.[8]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, May 10, 1780.

Dear Sir: The Bearer Mr. Smith having obtained permission from the State of Maryland to go to Great Britain by way of New-York, you will be pleased to direct an Officer to attend him with a Flag to Staten Island. As Mr. Smith is anxious if possible to overtake the May packet, you will be pleased to order the Flag as speedily as possible. His papers having been properly examined here, there need be no detention upon that Account.

Governor Livingstons Lady[9] having removed down to his seat near Elizabeth Town, be kind enough to give orders to have the strictest attention paid to the preservation of the inclosures, Gardens, and improvements of every kind. Mrs.

[7] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[8] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.
[9] Mrs. William Livingston (*nee* Susanna French).

Livingston would not choose a guard as she looks upon one rather as an inducement to the Enemy to come up to the House. I am &c.

P. S. The Jersey Brigade will march to relieve you tomorrow if they can procure Waggons.[10]

To JOHN ADAM[11]

Head Quarters, May 10, 1780.

Sir: From the distressed situation in which I am informed Lt Colo Antill is on Long Island, I desire that you will send him a Barrel of Beef and One of pork, and Two Barrels of flour. They ought to be good. If You cannot procure them yourself, You will apply to the Commissary who must furnish them. The sooner Colo Antill can receive this supply the better. I am &c.[12]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Wednesday, May 10, 1780.

Parole California. Countersigns Cooke, Corke.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Johnson.[13] / Lieutenant Colonel Robinson[14] / Brigade Major, Stark's Brigade }

A Serjeant Corporal and twelve men for fatigue tomorrow they are to be sent very early in the morning to Quarter master Lewis's[15] quarters with their Arms and three days provisions.

The Jersey Brigade to move tomorrow morning: General Maxwell will call at Head Quarters tomorrow for orders.

[10] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[11] Deputy Commissary of Prisoners.
[12] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.
[13] Col. Francis Johnston.
[14] Lieut. Col. Thomas Robinson, of the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment.
[15] Joseph Lewis. He was Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General.

The State of the roads at present admitting the march of the men with ease the order of the 8th. of February last respecting the Camp guards is revived: but instead of assembling at 9 oClock they are to parade on the Grand Parade at 8 o'clock The Troop to beat at 7.

At the General court martial whereof Colonel Shreve is President, on the 22d ultimo Major Church of the 4th Pennsylvania regiment was Tried on the following Charges.

1st. For purchasing men's pay at an under Value

2d For discharging a man fit for duty and returning him discharg'd unfit for service.

3d. For defrauding the United States and the regiment in several instances vizt.

1st. Keeping Laban Bogart, soldier in said regiment working on his Farm a considerable time and Mustering him on Command.

2dly. For keeping James McGee, soldier in the 4th. Pennsylvania regiment driving his or his Brother's Team and discharging him from the regiment.

3dly. Drawing Soldiers Pay by virtue of orders which orders the men declare to be forged.

4thly. Sending a horse known to be public property to his Farm which horse has since been offered for Sale.

5thly. Forcibly taking one hundred and ten dollars from James McDonack, a soldier.

6thly Taking Clothing (sent for the use of the Soldiers) out of the Paymaster's Store without his knowledge and appropriating them to his own use.

The Court having fully and maturely consider'd the several charges against Major Church and the Evidence in the Case are of opinion that the Charges are each of them unsupported and that the prosecution of Major Church was Malicious and Groundless and Therefore they do acquit Major Church with Honor.

The Commander in Chief confirms the opinion of the Court: Major Church is released from his Arrest.

To HENRY CHAMPION

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 11, 1780.

Sir: I this day received yours of the 6th: none of the Cattle mentioned in it, have yet arrived, but the Express informs me that a drove of about 50 were at the North River. You have my thanks for your exertions on the present pressing occasion and I am sure you will not discontinue them when you know that our dependance for some time to come rests almost intirely upon you. I am &c.[16]

To CAPTAIN BARTHOLOMEW VON HEER

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 11, 1780.

Sir: You will be pleased immediately upon the receipt of this to come forward yourself or send on an Officer with all the Horses of your troop fit for service, and leave directions for the remainder to follow as soon as possible. They are wanted for a very particular service and therefore no time must be lost in reaching this place. I am &c.[17]

*To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Morris-Town, May 11, 1780.

Sir: The attention and honors paid to Mr. De Miralles after his death were a tribute due to his character and merit, and dictated by the sincere esteem which I always felt for him.

[16] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[17] The draft, in the writing of Tench Tilghman, is addressed to Heer at Philadelphia or Burlington, as Heer's corps had been ordered from the former to the latter place and the movement was delayed by the Board of War.

I am much obliged to your Excellency for your intention of sending me a detail of the land and Sea forces arriv'd at Martinique, which I beg leave to inform you, you forgot to inclose in your letter.[18]

You will participate in the joy I feel at the arrival of the Marquis de la Fayette. No event could have given me greater pleasure on a personal account, and motives of public utility conspire to make it agreeable. He will shortly have the honor to wait upon your Excellency and impart matters of the greatest moment to these States. He announces a fresh and striking instance of the friendship of your Court and which cannot fail to contribute greatly to perpetuate the gratitude of this Country.

I am always happy to repeat to you the sentiments of respect and inviolable attachment with which I have the honor etc.[19]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Thursday, May 11, 1780.

Parole Hannibal. Countersigns T., L.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Cortlandt / Lieutenant Colonel Hay / Brigade Major, Hand's Brigade

The General Court Martial whereof Colonel Shreve is President is dissolved.

To FRANCIS LEWIS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 12, 1780.

Sir: I have been honored with yours of the 9th: informing me of your having directed Mr. Shaw[20] of New London to

[18] This list is in the *Washington Papers* under date of March 21. (See Washington's letter to Chevalier de la Luzerne, May 14, 1780, *post.*)

[19] From a photostat of the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

[20] Nathaniel Shaw, jr. He was Continental Prize Agent at New London.

forward twelve boxes of Lemons, out of the Deanes prize, to me. I beg you will present my thanks to the Board[21] for this their polite attention. I have the honor etc.[22]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Friday, May 12, 1780.

Parole De La Fayette. Countersigns France, Spain.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel H. Jackson / Lieutenant Colonel Mentges / Brigade Major, Alexander[23]

On Monday next the Troops will begin to exercise and continue every day Fridays and Saturday's excepted in the following manner:[24]

At Six oClock, A. M. each regiment will parade and the Rolls be called the commanding officer taking particular care that none of the officers or men are absent, except those on Guard or other military duty, and immediately after the rolls are called each regiment will begin to Exercise by Companies in the manner prescribed in the 6th. Chapter of the Regulations, each Company to be exercised by the Captain or officer commanding it. The Field Officers to superintend the whole and see that it is carried on agreeable to the regulations.

The Paymasters and Quarter masters having a right to command in their companies in time of Action must attend the Exercise as often as their Staff duties will admit: at Five oClock the regiments will exercise by Companies in the same manner

[21] The Continental Board of Admiralty.

[22] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[23] Maj. William(?) Alexander, of the Third Pennsylvania Regiment. He retired in January, 1783.

[24] "Your Excellency having expressed a desire that the Troops should exercise I take the liberty of submitting the inclosed for your approbation, to be put in orders tomorrow."—*Steuben to Washington*, May 11, 1780. Steuben's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

but without Arms. The Commanding officers of regiments are to be answerable that no Waiter or other person absents himself from the Exercise on any pretence and the Generals and Inspectors of Brigades will visit the regiments and see that this order is strictly obeyed.

Every Monday Wednesday and Saturday beginning on Monday next the Inspector General or in his absence one of the Inspectors will exercise on the Green near Morristown two Battalions detached from the Line with four Field pieces each Battalion to consist of one Colonel or Lieutenant Colone, one Major, Six Captains, Seven Lieutenants, Eight Ensigns, one of which is for the Colours, Twenty six Serjeants, Eight Corporals, Eight Drums, Eight Fifers, Two hundred and fifty six rank and File.

The Troops to be at the place of Exercise at Nine o clock A. M.

To SIR JAMES JAY

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 12, 1780.

Sir: I have had the pleasure of receiving your favors of the 13th. and 20th. April. The Box of Medicine [25] mentioned in the former came safe to hand, and was the more acceptable as I had intirely expended the first parcel with which you had been kind enough to furnish me. I have directed Colo. Hay to assist you in erecting a small Elaboratory, from which I hope you will derive improvement and amusement and the public some advantages.

Major Beauman intends to return to West point in a few days. I have already signified to General Howe my consent to your then expending as much powder as can be conveniently spared in ascertaining those points in Gunnery which you are

[25] Chemical for secret writing.

anxious to prove by actual Experiments provided all matters are quiet.

Give me leave to congratulate you on your Brother's [26] safe arrival in Spain. An event truly important and which gives particular pleasure to Sir Your etc.[27]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Saturday, May 13, 1780.

Parole Saxe. Countersigns R., P.

Of The Day Tomorrow	Colonel Angell Major Thayer Brigade Major, 2d. Pennsylvania brigade

A man acquainted with the management of hides from the Pennsylvania Line, also one from Stark's brigade to be sent to the Deputy commissary of hides at Morristown tomorrow they are to remain with him 'till the Brigade to which they belong move from this place.

*To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris town, May 13, 1780.

Sir: The Marquis de la Fayette will have the honor to deliver you this. I am perswaded Congress will participate in the joy I feel at the return of a Gentleman who has distinguished himself in the service of this Country so signally, who has given so many and so decisive proofs of his attachments to its interests, and who ought to be dear to it by every motive.[28]

[26] John Jay.

[27] The darft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[28] At this point the draft has the following crossed off: "There are striking proofs of his having worked himself during his stay in France to promote every measure of utility to these States, and he has been successful enough to render the most essential services. These Congress will learn from other quarters and I doubt not will bestow

The warm friendship I have for him conspires with considerations of public utility to afford me a double satisfaction in his return.

During the time he has been in France he has uniformly manifested the same zeal in our affairs which animated his conduct while he was among us; and has been upon all occasions an essential friend to America. The merits and I doubt not Congress will give him every mark of consideration in their power. I have the honor etc.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 13, 1780.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 9th: instant. I yesterday received the inclosed intelligence, which corresponds with other accounts from different quarters. Whether their fears in New York are well grounded a little time must discover. I have the honor etc.[29]

To FRANCIS LEWIS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 13, 1780.

Sir: I had this day the pleasure of receiving yours of the 6th: accompanied by two pipes of Madeira which came safe. As did those from Egg Harbour in the Winter. I am infinitely obliged to the Board for the trouble they have taken in the Affair and beg leave to subscribe myself Sir your etc.

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every mark of consideration and regard in their power. He is charged in conjunction with the Minister of France with matters of very great moment which I presume will be imparted to Congress."

[29] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. The intelligence inclosed is an extract from Gen. Robert Howe's letter to Washington (May 11), the original of which is in the *Washington Papers*, which retailed spy intelligence of the activities in New York on receipt of news from England. Among the details was the significant one, "That the Marquis Lafayette was said to have taken Leave of the King of France in an american Uniform."

*To JAMES DUANE

Morris-town, May 13, 1780.

Dear Sir: Your favors of the 4th and 9th. came safe to hand. I thank you very sincerely for the several articles of Intellie. contained in them; and shall be happy, at all times, to hear from you when any thing occurs worthy of the moments wch. must be spent in the communication.

My hearty wishes attend your endeavours to accomplish the confederation.[30] It is certainly a most desirable event for us, and a much dreaded one by the enemy. The spirit wch. seems to have gone forth in England must, methinks, exceedingly embarrass the measures of Administration, and give proportionate aid to our cause. this, or some other accts. by the last Packet, has, undoubtedly, produced dejected countenances in New York. The advice boat that brought them not being able to proceed with the dispatches for Sir Henry Clinton in the instt. of her arrival another was ordered, and Sailed immediately for Charles Town with them. The Tories you may depend on it are much alarm'd.

I am exceedingly anxious for the fate of Charles Town. more so for the Garrison and the accumulated Stores in it; but much rejoiced, and indeed relieved, at hearing that the Govr. and part of his Council had left the City for the purpose of supporting legal Govt. in the State at large.

[30] "I am . . . much engaged in another attempt to get the Confederation accomplished which in my Opinion would fully compensate for the temporary Loss of any City on the Continent; it gives me great pleasure to assure your Excellency that the Delegates from Virginia are warmly disposed to give it all the Aid in their power: I, inded, have the fullest Expectation that our Joint Exertions will Succeed: and the future Safety and Tranquility of the States be fixed on a permanent Basis, Without a Federal Alliance peace, itself, Independence, and Security from external Assaults, would scarcely deserve the Name of a Blessing."—*Duane to Washington,* May 4, 1780. Duane's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

I am sorry to hear of Hugers[31] misforte., on many accts., an Officer may be beaten and yet obtain honor, but disgrace must for ever accompany surprizes. The want of money is much to be regretted. The consequences may be fatal from causes too many and too obvious to stand in need of enumeration. I am pleased however to hear that the several States from whence accts. are recd. have either adopted, or are about to adopt the scheme of finance recommended by Congress.[32] I am clearly in sentiment with you, that it ought to be supported although it may be, in some respects, exceptionable.

The arrival of Messrs. Jay and Gerard[33] is a pleasing event, as is that of the Marqs. de la fayette in this Country. he is now here, a little indisposed with a cold, but will proceed on to Congress tomorrow or next day. Mrs. Washington and the Gentn. of my family join their best wishes, most cordially with mine to these you will permit me to add my grateful acknowledgments, and warmest thanks, for your friendly and polite assurances of regard, and to declare at the same time that with much esteem, and personal attachment. I am etc.

P S. I have recd. fresh, and authentic Intelligence that the enemy are in great consternation at New York. They are going to run lines of defence from the East to the No. River; are throwing up new Works at the Narrows, and have a number of Vessels laden with Stone to sink and obstruck the entrance of the harbour. Two advice Boats were sent from N. Y. within the space of 48 hours after the arrival of the dispatches from England to Sir Hy. Clinton &ca. &ca.

[31] Brig. Gen. Isaac Huger. "Our Cavalry under General Huger was surprised by the Enemy and sustained the Loss of 20 men and 30 Horses: That this Success enabled the Enemy to head Cooper River, and take post on the North side, and that it will eventually compleat the blockade of the Town."—*Duane to Washington,* May 9, 1780. Duane's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[32] See *Journals of the Continental Congress,* Mar. 18, 1780, for the plan of an impost of 1 per cent on all imports and exports.

[33] They landed at Cadiz, Jan. 22, 1780.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, May 13, 1780.

Dr Sir: General Maxwell with the Brigade under his command comes to relieve You, to whom you will be pleased to give a Copy of the Instructions you have received and such information with respect to Guards &c. as you may deem material. When You are relieved You will march with your Troops to Camp and either occupy their own Huts or those which the Maryland Troops have left as may be most agreable. It is a point which is left entirely with Yourselves; but if the Maryland Huts are equally good and convenient, it would make our situation rather more compact if they were to be possessed. It will be necessary, in either case to send up your Quarter Master to have the Huts put in some order. I am etc.[34]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL UDNY HAY

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 13, 1780.

Dear Sir: Sir James Jay has requested the assistance of a few Artificers for a day or two to erect a small Elaboratory. As he purposes making some experiments which may be of public utility and has already furnished me with some Chymical preparations, from which I have derived considerable advantages I think it proper to gratify him. You will therefore be pleased to furnish him with the necessary hands. And should a few Boards or such matters be wanting to compleat the building

[34] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

On May 18 Washington wrote again to Huntington: "As my letter requesting your stay below was founded on the appearance of Vessels with troops on board going up the Hackingsack River which I am informed are gone back, I have now to desire, if they have returned, that you will be pleased to march the division under yr command agreeably to my letter of the 13th., to Camp." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

which is to be of Logs, you will also procure them, if it be in your power. I wish you and Mrs. Hay a pleasant Journey and am, etc.[35]

*To JOSEPH JONES[36]

(Private)

Morris-Town, May 14, 1780.

Dear Sir: I received the acct. of your delegation with much satisfaction and was greatly pleased to hear of your arrival in Philadelphia; as I have ever placed you among the number of my friends I mean to take this early oppertunity of giving you a mark of my confidence in an interesting moment.

The arrival of the Marquis de la Fayette opens a prospect wch. offers the most important advantages to these States if proper measures are adopted to improve it. He announces an intention of his Court to send a Fleet and Army to co-operate effectually with us.

In the present state of our Finances, and in the total emptiness of our magazines a plan must be concerted to bring out the resources of the Country with vigor and decision; this I think you will agree with me cannot be effected if the measures to be taken should depend on the slow deliberations of a body so large as Congress admitting the best disposition in every member to promote the object in view. It appears to me of the greatest importance, and even of absolute necessity that a *small* Committee should be immediately appointed to reside near head Quarters vested with all the powers which Congress have so far as respects the purpose of a full co-operation with the French fleet and Army on the *Continent.* There authority should be

[35] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[36] Delegate to the Continental Congress from Virginia.

Plenipotentiary to draw out men and supplies of every kind and give their sanction to any operations which the Commander in chief may not think himself at liberty to undertake without it as well beyond, as within the limit of these States.

This Committee can act with dispatch and energy, by being on the spot it will be able to provide for exigencies as they arise and the better to judge of their nature and urgency. The plans in contemplation may be opened to them with more freedom and confidence than to a numerous body. Where secrecy is impossible, where the indiscretion of a single member by disclosing may defeat the project.

I need not enlarge on the advantages of such a measure as I flatter myself they will occur to you and that you will be ready to propose and give it your support. The conjuncture is one of the most critical and important we have seen, all our prudence and exertions are requisite to give it a favourable issue. Hesitancy and delay would in all probability ruin our Affairs; circumstanced as we are the greatest good or the greatest ill must result. We shall probably fix the independence of America if we succeed and if we fail the abilities of the State will have been so strained in the attempt that a total relaxation and debility must ensue and the worst is to be apprehended.

These considerations should determine Congress to forego all inferior objects and unite with mutual confidence in those measures which seem best calculated to insure success. There is no man who can be more useful as a member of the Committee than General Schuyler. His perfect knowledge of the resources of the Country, the activity of his temper, His fruitfulness of expedients and his sound Military sense make me wish above all things he may be appointed. A well composed Committee is of primary importance, I need not hint that the delicacy of these intimations fits them only for your private ear.

The opinion I have of your friendship induces me thus freely and confidentially to impart my sentiments on the occasion and I shall be very happy you may agree with me in judgment. I am with the greatest esteem and regard Dr. Sir etc.[37]

To JAMES DUANE

Morris Town, May 14, 1780.

Dr. Sir: The arrival of the Marquis de La Fayette . . . may defeat the project.[38] . . . I need not enlarge . . . wish above all things he may be appointed. I have also a very favourable opinion of Mr. Mathews' understanding and integrity, and I should be willing to trust every thing to the goodness of the other's intentions, if I had not some doubts of his discretion.[39] I wish the Chancellor[40] or yourself could be in the appointment. A well composed committee . . .[41]

*To THE BOARD OF TREASURY

Morris-Town, May 14, 1780.

Gentn: Sometime last spring, or early in the Summer, Congress were pleased to authorise me to draw upon the Board of Treasury for a Sum in Specie not exceeding two thousand Guineas.

As it was not my wish to call for more than the exigencies of the particular Service (for which it was intended) required; and as I happened at that time to have part of a former sum

[37] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[38] At this point the draft, which is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton, has the following crossed off: "and their concurrence in particular points may tend to give our military operations a degree of boldness which they might otherwise want."

[39] Nathaniel Peabody.

[40] Robert R. Livingston.

[41] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The omitted portions are identical with Washington's letter to Joseph Jones, May 14, 1780, *q. v.*

by me, I asked for 500 Gs. only with that sum I have made a shift till this time but now have a call for the further Sum of 500 Gs., if it can be furnished the bearer Mr. Geo: Washington[42] will receive and bring it to Gentn. Yr.

*To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Head Quarters, Morris-town, May 14, 1780.

Sir: Since my last I have had the honor to receive the detail of His Most Christian Majestys Fleet in the West Indies,[43] which your Excellency has had the goodness to send me. I congratulate you very sincerely, Sir, on this very respectable armament, which I found to surpass my expectation and I would willingly hope that an accasion will be afforded the Count De Guichen[44] to strike Some important blow with it, advancive of the honor and interest of his Majesty and of course, of the honor and interest of these States. I have the honor etc.[45]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Sunday, May 14, 1780.

Parole Achilles. Countersigns Alps, Bar.

To command the manœvring battalions tomorr	Colonels Johnson and Livingston Majors Reed and J. Moore[46]
Of the Day Tomorrow	Brigadier General Clinton Colonel Stewart Brigade Major, Clinton's brigade

[42] George Augustine Washington.

[43] See Washington's letter to Chevalier de la Luzerne, May 11, 1780.

[44] Louis Urbain du Bouexic, Comte de Guichen. He was lieutenant general and commander in chief, French Navy, in the West Indies.

[45] From a photostat of the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

[46] Maj. James Moore, of the First Pennsylvania Regiment.

A Detachment for a fortnight to parade tomorrow morning at Guard mounting with their Arms Packs and Three days provisions and forty rounds pr man.

Major T. Moore[47] to command.

The Pennsylvania and Clinton's Divisions to give the Guards at Morristown; small detached Guards and fatigues for the ensuing week.

The Issuing Commissaries are to draw but two days bread at a time.

Lieutenant William Feltman[48] of the 10th Pennsylvania regiment is appointed Paymaster to the same from the 6th. of March last vice Ensign Benstead[49] resigned.

The General Court martial whereof Brigadier General Hand is President to assemble tomorrow morning 9 oclock A. M. at Morristown; a Captain from the 1st. Pennsylvania Brigade to attend the Court vice a Captain from the Maryland Line.

AFTER ORDERS

A Surgeon or Mate from Hand's Brigade to join the Detachment under Command of Major Moore.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, May 15, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I have the pleasure to inform You in strict confidence, that we have authentic advices of his Most Christian Majesty's determination to send a respectable Armament of Sea and Land forces, to operate on the Continent, and that the period is not remote when we may expect their arrival.

[47] Maj. Thomas Lloyd Moore, of the Ninth Pennsylvania Regiment.

[48] He was transferred to the First Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1781; taken prisoner at Green Spring, Va., in July, 1781; resigned in April, 1782.

[49] Ensign Alexander Benstead, of the Tenth Pennsylvania Regiment. He is noted by Heitman as being a lieutenant from March, 1780, and retired in January, 1781.

Having informed You of this, I am now to add, that the destruction of Hallifax, of the Naval arsenals and Garrison there, is a primary Object with our Allies, as, this being effected, the support af the Enemy's Marine in those Seas and in the West Indies, would be exceedingly difficult and precarious; and in this view that there is nothing they seem to wish for more. It would certainly be an event of infinite importance to them and of course to the common cause; and therefore we ought as far as possible, to give every aid in our power to accomplish it. It may be essential to the success of any attempt that may be made against the place, to obtain previous information with respect to the force, *the Corps* that are there, of the number, sort and condition of the Fortifications, and also of the Ships of War, which are points about which Our Allies appear to be in the dark, and on which unhappily I cannot give them the necessary satisfaction myself. I therefore earnestly request that you will assist me in this very important business as far as present circumstances will permit, by communicating to me by the earliest opportunity, the result of such enquiries as you shall make on the subject. You cannot be too minute and particular with respect to it, and I should hope from the frequent flags which I think I have heard have passed between Hallifax and Boston for the exchange of prisoners, that you may gain good and useful intelligence upon the occasion. I request this as a first step; but besides I wish you if possible, to send to Hallifax in such way as may appear the most likely to succeed, One or Two persons of good understanding and in whose firmness and fidelity we may safely rely, to obtain the most exact accounts of these matters. If they could be Draftsmen they would be so much the better, as a good plan of the Fortifications would be of essential service and is what Our Friends are very desirous of obtaining. I have written to the Honourable

Mr. Bowdoine a confidential Letter on these subjects, and I am persuaded that he and the Council, without disclosing the matter, on your application if you should find it necessary to make one, will most chearfully do any thing that may be requisite to promote the plan for gaining intelligence, and will assist you with money, if you should have occasion for it. If You can engage proper persons to go on the business, you may stipulate with them for a generous compensation to be made them on their return, and which will be encreased in proportion to the importance of the information they bring. You will extend your enquiries in like manner to the post and Garrison at Penobscot and procure the best account of these that You can. If our Allies should operate against Hallifax, they will necessarily have occasion for some skilful and faithful pilots acquainted with the Coast and Harbour; I therefore wish you to turn your attention to the matter and to inform me whether such may be had in case they are wanted. You will also do the same with respect to Penobscot. Indeed it might be best if you have an opportunity, to speak to some of the pilots who would be proper to be employed and without discovering the matter with respect to an arrival of a fleet from France, know whether in case of such an expedition they would embark in it. I am &c.[50] [MS. H. S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 15, 1780.

My dear Sir: I have duly received your favor of the 9th of last Month, containing an account of the Enemy's movements till that period. Since the receipt of this I have seen a Copy of a Letter from the Honble Mr. Gervais,[51] one of the Council, as

[50] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.
[51] John Lewis Gervais.

low down as the 15th. and was happy to find by it that their Batteries, though they had been opened some days, had done you but very little damage, and I was made still more happy yesterday by a report from New York, that you were all well on the 1st Instant. God grant it may have been true and that you may maintain your Post. As obstructing the passage of the Cooper was of some importance, I wish that You may have accomplished it.

I have the pleasure to acquaint You, that the Marquis de la Fayette arrived within a few days past in an Express Frigate from France, which he left the 20th. of March. At that time Britain had formed no alliances that were known, nor does the Marquis seem to be under the least apprehension of her being able to do it. The Marquis comes the Messenger of other good news, and on which I congratulate you. His Most Christian Majesty of his great magnanimity and regard for us, has determined to send a very respectable Armament of Land and Sea forces to our succour. I expect that it will arrive early next month, and persuade myself that it will be the means of giving You certain and effectual relief. I wish my Letter may get safe to hand, as the communication of this important event must have a pleasing influence on the minds of the Troops, and will enable You, with the more facility to persevere in your determination of defending the Town to the last extremity. Adieu. I remain etc.[52]

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 15, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have been favd. with yours of the 11th. and 13th. The intelligence contained in the first is interesting and is

[52]The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison and is noted by him: "Four Copies of this sent to Govr Rutledge, in 2 Letters duplicates."

confirmed so far as it respects the preparations of the enemy for defence by accounts from other Quarters. The late demonstration of a movement in New York, seems to have resolved itself into a Forage in Bergen County, as several small Vessels have gone up Hackensack River; some have also, I am informed, gone up the North River. This will naturally put you upon your guard, tho' I do not conceive they have intentions against you. Be pleased to send Colo. Gouvion immediately down, as I have occasion for his presence, and direct Major Mournon,[53] if he has recovered, to go over to the sound, and see whether the Platform plank, Pickets, Gabions and Fascines, which were cut under his inspection last fall, are still there, and to make report of the quantity and what condition they are in.

Be kind enough to write to the Officer commanding the Militia upon the Sound, if any are now embodied, and request him to set his men to work to make a further quantity. I am &c.[54]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL UDNY HAY

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 15, 1780.

Dear Sir: Upon looking to a General Return of Qr. Masters Stores I find there were 1200 lb. of Oakum and 164 Barrels of Tar at Albany the 7th. January last. As the repair of the Boats upon the north River was delayed for want of the above Articles you will be pleased to order them down, and set every hand who understands the Business to work upon the Boats. I am exceedingly anxious to have them put in condition for service, and you will therefore oblige me by paying all possible attention to the matter. I am &c.[54]

[53] Maj. Jean Bernard Gauthier de Murnans.
[54] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To COLONEL CHRISTOPHER GREENE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 15, 1780.

Sir: Be pleased immediately upon the Rect. hereof to set your Regiment to work in making Fascines. They are to be from 12 to 18 feet in length and 10 inches thick, well bound and cut square at both ends; of these kinds they may make as many as they can till further orders, and a few hundreds 6 feet long and 15 inches thick; a number of split stakes of hard wood will also be necessary to fix the Fascines, they must be 4 feet long and 3 inches square. I have some reason to think that Genl. Gates last fall provided a parcel of platform Plank and several other Articles necessary for the construction of Works. Be pleased to make an inquiry and if you find any such, have them collected. I am &c.

P. S. Be pleased to have all the public Boats and Craft collected and if they want any repairs direct the Qr. Mr. to have it done.[55]

To MAJOR LEMUEL TRESCOTT

Head Quarters, May 15, 1780.

Sir: I have received your favor of Yesterday and thank you for the intelligence it contains. I have only to desire that you will communicate any thing further respecting the fleet as speedily as possible and that you will be perfectly on your guard. I hear number of Vessels have gone up Hackensack River also, which leads me to believe they intend a large forage. I am, etc.[56]

[55] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[56] The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

This same day (May 15) Washington wrote again to Trescott: "I wrote you a little time past in answer to yr letter of yesterday. This will be delivered you by Major Moore, who commands the detachment intended to relieve you, but as the Enemy are out, I would have you remain, at least, until their intentions are better known." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 15, 1780.

Dr Sr: Notwithstanding the Jersey Brigade has moved down in order to relieve your command, I wish you to remain where you are until you hear further from me. I am.

Ps. As I have recd intelligence of a movement of the Enemy, I beg you will keep the Troops in the most compact order and readiness to march on the shortest notice should circumstances require it. You will be prepared on the score of provision also.[57]

To JAMES BOWDOIN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 15, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I take the liberty to transmit to your care a Letter for Major General Heath under a flying Seal. From an apprehension that he might have left Boston before it arrived and the importance of the objects to which it extends I am induced to use this freedom. If the General has not returned to the Army, I would request the favor of you to have the Letter sealed after perusing it, and delivered to him; and if he has that you will have the goodness to consider it as addressed to yourself and to assist me in the several interesting points to which it goes. It may be of infinite importance to obtain the information required, and I should hope it may be done. Our very good Friends and Allies have it much at heart, and view the reduction of Hallifax as a matter of great consequence, as being the Arsenal of support to the Enemy's fleet in these seas and in the West Indies. I very sincerely congratulate you on this prospect of succour from his Most Christian Majesty,

[57] The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

which equally demonstrates his wisdom and his great regard for us. Your own good understanding I am convinced, will lead you at once to see the propriety of secrecy upon the occasion and you will be pleased to consider the communication as confidential. I shall be happy, and our interest and character as a Nation indispensably require it, that our exertions may be proportioned to this fresh instance of magnanimity and generosity on the part of our Ally. I confess I have my fears on this head, as we have now from the pernicious system of short inlistments, nothing left us but the Skeleton of an Army, and are under great embarrassments with respect to our finance. Every friend to America should give his most active support to these important Objects.

The accounts from Charles Town received on our part as I learn from Philadelphia, only came down to the 15th of April. The Enemy's Batteries had then been opened for some days, without any other effect than killing three privates and a Woman and Child and firing One or Two Houses. It is however reported to day, that they have received advice in New York to the 1st Instant, and that matters had not then undergone any material changes. I have the Honor etc.[58] [MS. H. S.]

To GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 15, 1780.

Sir: I have the pleasure to inform Your Excellency confidentially that a French Fleet may in the course of a few Weeks be expected upon this Coast, and as it is uncertain what part

[58] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

Bowdoin replied (May 31) with full information and an accurate map of Halifax harbor. Bowdoin's letter is in the *Washington Papers*. This information Washington briefed in an undated memorandum filed at the end of May, 1780, in the *Washington Papers*.

of the land they may first make, Gentlemen are to be stationed at different points, to give them Signals and to make them some necessary communications immediately upon their arrival. Major Galvan who will have the honor of delivering this to your Excellency is appointed to go down to Cape Henry for the purposes above mentioned, and as he will have occasion to keep one or two Boats in constant readiness to go off upon the appearance of the Fleet, I shall be much obliged by your giving an order to the person who has the superintendance of the public Vessels and Craft in Virginia to supply him with the necessary number. Should the public have none of the proper kind in their possession, you will be pleased to recommend to Major Galvan the most certain and speedy methods of procuring them. One or two skilful and trusty pilots will also be necessary, that if any of the ships should have occasion to enter the Bay, they may not be at a loss.

Your Excellency will no doubt see the propriety of keeping the object of Major Galvans mission as much a secret as possible, lest the importance of the dispatches with which he is charged might be an inducement to some of the disaffected to take him off. It would add much to his security, if your Excellency would be good enough to introduce him to some Gentleman in the neighbourhood of Cape Henry, in whom he may confide and with whom he may remain while in that quarter.

It is essentially necessary that Major Galvan should be constantly informed of the operations in South Carolina, and as he will be out of the common track of intelligence, I have desired him to keep up a communication with your Excellency. Your acquainting him therefore with what comes to your knowledge, either officially or sufficiently authentic to be depended upon may be productive of most salutary consequences. I would beg leave to recommend Major Galvan generally to your Excellency for every public assistance of which

he may stand in need, and particularly to your personal civilities. I have the honor etc.[59]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Monday, May 15, 1780.

Parole Frederick. Countersigns N., Q.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Craig / Major Talbot[60] / Brigade Major, Stark's Brigade

The General court martial whereof Brigadier General Hand is President to assemble at the hut lately occupied by Major Winder in the Maryland line; Major Eustace[61] is appointed a member vice Major Grier indisposed.

Lieutenant James Fairlie[62] of the 2nd. New York regiment is appointed Aid de Camp to Major General Baron Steuben and is to be obeyed and respected accordingly.

The Colonels and commanding officers of regiments in Camp are to attend Wednesday morning next at 9 o clock at the place of Exercise near Morristown.

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 16, 1780.

My Dear Marquis: Since you left me, I have more fully reflected on the plan which it will be proper for the French fleet

[59] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Among the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress is a facsimile of the following note in Washington's writing: "Genl. Washington prests. his Compliments to My Lord Stirling, and prays his excuse for not doing himself the pleasure of dining with him to day. Unavoidable business puts it entirely out of his power to do this. Monday 15th May 1780."

[60] Maj. Jeremiah Talbot, of the Seventh Pennsylvania Regiment. He retired in January, 1781.

[61] Maj. Benjamin Eustis (Eustace), of the Fourth Continental Artillery. He died in October, 1781.

[62] Maj. James Fairlie. He continued as aide to Major General Steuben to the close of the war.

and army to pursue, on their arrival upon the Coast and it appears to me in the present situation of the enemy at New York, that it ought to be our first object to reduce that post and that it is of the utmost importance not to lose a moment in repairing to that place. I would therefore advise you to write to the Count De Rochembeau and Monsr. De Ternay in the following spirit, urging them in the strongest terms to proceed both Fleet and Army with all possible expedition to Sandy Hook, where they will be met with further advices, of the precise situation strength and disposition of the enemy and of our army, and with proposals for their future movements; unless they should have received authentic accounts that the fleet and troops now operating in the Southern states have evacuated them and formed a junction at New York. In this case; if they arrive at Rhode Island, they can disembark their troops, dispose of their sick and wait till a more definitive plan can be concerted or if they arrive off Cape Henry they can proceed directly to Rhode Island and make the same arrangements. But in case they should not have received the accounts above mentioned of the evacuation of the Southern states and junction at New York, and should proceed directly to Sandy Hook as is recommended, they can send their sick and every thing of which they wish to be disencumbered to Rhode Island.

The reasons for proceeding immediately to New York in the present situation of the enemy there are these: Their whole effective land force in regular troops is about 8000 men to which may be added about 4000 refugees and such of the militia as they would be able by persuasion or force to engage; but on the militia they can I sould suppose place [no great][63] dependence. Their naval force is one ship of 74 guns and three or four

[63] Hamilton had written "little," but that is crossed out and the words "no great" inserted in pencil by Washington.

small frigates. If the arrival of the French succour should find them in this situation, the Fleet can enter the harbour of New York without difficulty, and this is a point on which the success of the whole enterprise absolutely turns. By stopping at Rhode Island, if they arrive there or by passing from Cape Henry to Rhode Island the most precious time will be lost which will multiply the chances to the enemy of concentring their force, of receiving a naval reinforcement from England or the West Indies of increasing their precautions to obstruct the Channel and their preparations for the defence of their posts. By gaining possession of the Harbour and cutting off its communications the present garrison at New York would be unable to resist the efforts of the combined forces; and together with their ships must in all probability fall into our hands. On the contrary if they have time to concenter all their sea and land force on the Continent at New York, the enterprise against that place becomes extremely arduous has much less prospect of success and will at least exhaust the whole campaign to bring it to a favourable issue.[64]

The enemy have in the expedition under Sir Henry Clinton about seven thousand land troops, three ships of the line one fifty gun two forty four and some smaller frigates. If these ships were added to the force at New York, they would I apprehend be sufficient to exclude the French Squadron, unless aided by a vigorous cooperation by land towards Sandy Hook; and the garrison increased to fourteen or fifteen thousand regular troops would present immense difficulties in the way of its reduction.

I observed that the French Squadron would find no difficulty in entering the Port of New York, with the present naval

[64] Charleston, S. C., had surrendered (May 12, 1780), and Sir Henry Clinton returned to New York before Comte Rochambeau arrived.

force of the enemy there. The only possible obstacle to this is the obstructions the enemy are preparing; but I am inclined to hope these will be ineffectual and will be easily removed. They last fall made an attempt of the kind on the expectation of Count D'Estaing, but it failed from the depth of the water and rapidity of the current. Pilots for the harbour can be ready at Black point in the Jerseys from which they can go on Board the fleet at its first appearance.

I would wish you to place these things in the fullest light to the French Commanders, by way of recommendation, leaving it to them to act according to the condition of the fleet and troops, with respect to health and other essential matters, and if they prefer it to go immediately to Rhode Island from Cape Henry, or if they arrive at the former place in the first instance, to wait till a definitive plan is adopted. But I think every reason points to the mode here recommended.

You will be sensible, my Dear Sir, that we can at present only touch upon preliminary measures. The plan for ultimate operations must be the result of mature deliberation, a full view of our resources and must be formed in conjunction with the General and Admiral of the French forces.

I refer Mr. Galvan to you for instructions; but I send you a letter to Governor Jefferson of Virginia to give him any assistance he may require and to correspond with him on the state of Southern affairs. His own discretion and the information he will get on the spot must chiefly govern him. He cannot be dispatched too soon.

I request you in writing to the Count De Rochembeau and Mr De Ternay to assure them of all my respect and consideration of the high sense I entertain of this distinguished mark of His Christian Majesty friendship to these States, and of the happiness I anticipate in a personal acquaintance and co-operation with Gentlemen, whose reputations have inspired me

with the greatest esteem for their talents and merit. You will add that I will do every thing on my part to give success to the intended operations, and that I flatter myself they will be attended with the happiest consequences.

I cannot forbear recalling your attention to the importance of doing every thing possible to engage the Count De Guichen to come upon this Coast without delay. The more I reflect upon it the more essential it appears. With this addition to our present plan we should have reason to flatter ourselves with every thing; without it we have a great deal to apprehend, and instead of the happiest, the worst consequences may insue to the common cause. I am etc.

P. S. I am just informed that a Gentlemen called your Aide De Camp and the Consul of France at Boston[65] have had a duel in which the latter has been mortally wounded.[66] Tis probable the Gentleman supposed to be your Aide is the Chevalier De Fayolles.[67] If so it may perhaps throw him into embarrassments which may put it out of his power to execute the intended Commission, which makes it prudent to think of some other person.[68]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM MAXWELL

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 16, 1780.

Sir: I have received your favr. of yesterday. Capt. Rochefontaine, who will deliver this, will view the Ground you have pitched upon, and if he approves of it, will trace out the proper Works. Should he, upon reconnoitering the Country in the neighbourhood, find any other piece of Ground,

[65] Joseph de Valnais.

[66] The report was exaggerated, as de Valnais was fulfilling his consular duties in June, 1780.

[67] J. P. du Rousseau de Fayolle (Fayolles). He was lieutenant colonel and aide to Lafayette.

[68] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

accommodated with Water &c. which he thinks more advantageous than the one you have chosen, he will, if you agree with him in opinion, lay out the Works there. But should you differ, he will make report to me of the two positions, that I may decide. I am, etc.[69]

To COLONEL GOOSE VAN SCHAICK

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 16, 1780.

Sir: I this day recd. yours of the 1st. inclosing an account of the Fire at Fort Schuyler which I am glad to find was extinguished without doing any very material damage.

Inclosed you will find permissions for Lieut. Sherwood[70] and Ensign Clock[71] of your Regt. to quit the service. You will be pleased to indorse Copies of the same upon their Commissions if they have any. I am &c.[69]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Tuesday, May 16, 1780.

Parole Williamsburgh. Countersigns Wells., Wales.

To command the manœuvring battalions tomorrow	Colonels Cortlandt and Jackson
	Lt. Colonels Robinson and Hay

All officers absent from the Army except on Furloughs not expired; recruiting or on command are forthwith to join their Corps. The officers commanding Divisions will pay particular attention to have this order executed.

[69] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[70] Lieut. Adiel Sherwood, of the First New York Regiment. He resigned on May 16, 1780, and served subsequently as captain of New York levies.

[71] Ensign Jacob I. Block (Clock), of the First New York Regiment. He resigned May 16, 1780, and joined the British Army.

The manœuvring Battalions to be formed in the field opposite Stark's Brigade precisely at Nine o clock tomorrow morning: Two Adjutants from the Pennsylvania Division to be added to these Battalions: They are to be furnished with a Standard from the Pennsylvania Division and one from Clinton's brigade: Brigade Major from the 1st. Pennsylvania Brigade to attend the formation.

To MAJOR WILLIAM GALVAN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 16, 1780.

Sir: A French Fleet being expected shortly upon this Coast, it will be necessary to have Officers stationed at different points to make them Signals upon their first arrival. You being appointed to go down to Cape Henry in Virginia, will be charged with dispatches and communications for the French Admiral and General and will be made acquainted with the signals of recognizance. All these, and any further commands, you will receive from General the Marquis de la Fayette, at present in Philada. to which place you will repair with the utmost expedition. I need not recommend to you the necessity of your keeping the object of your Mission as much a secret as possible. I am etc.

P. S. You will be pleased to correspond with me when any thing material occurs or when you find opportunities.[72]

To GOVERNOR JOHN RUTLEDGE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 16, 1780.

Dr Sir: I have the honor to inclose your Excellency two copies of a letter for General Lincoln, which you will observe

[72] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

contain intelligence the most important. It is a question how far it is the interest of these states to have the seige of Charles Town raised at this juncture; for if the arrival of the French fleet should find the enemy in their present divided state there is every reason to hope for the most decisive consequences. On the other hand if they should concenter their force at New York an operation against it would be attended with immense difficulty delay and hazard; but the Southern states would be relieved, an advantage of the greatest moment. We have great reason to believe the enemy have received advice, by a frigate lately from England of the intention of our allies; if this is the case secrecy on our part would answer little purpose (indeed it is to a certain point impracticable) Sir Henry in this case will probably have taken his measures before this arrives, and unless he expects a naval support from England, will have abandonned the enterprise. Lest however, a want of certainty in his advices may have induced him to continue his operations, it may be of consequence to apprize General Lincoln and the garrison of the expected succour. It would give new spirit to the defence and may tend to prolong it till effectual assistance can be given, either by directing the French armament to the Southward or by operations in this quarter. You will therefore have the goodness to transmit my letter to him if you have any communication open.

The intention of sending you two copies is this. Should the progress of the enemy against the Town indicate its speedy loss you can so contrive it, that one of the copies may fall into the enemy's hands, as if by accident, or you can otherwise take effectual measures to give them such information of it as they will believe. This may possibly either precipitate their measure to an unfavourable issue or make them relinquish the seige; and in one way or the other save the Town.

If you should not think the Town in material danger it will be best to confine the knowledge of what I now communicate, and not let it go beyond General Lincoln. In this case I would not wish to alarm the enemy, for the reasons already assigned.

I am happy to learn by the way of New York that Charles Town was still safe the first of this Month. I hope it has continued so: A failure in this attempt will have the greatest influence to the prejudice of the affairs of England. I congratulate you on this new instance of the friendship of our ally. The part the Court of France has acted is truly politic and magnanimous and has a claim to the lasting affection of this Country. With every sentiment of respect etc.

P. S. I request your Excellencys opinion as speedily as possible, in case the French fleet and army should proceed to the Southward, where under present circumstances would be a proper place of debarkation, whether a sufficiency of provisions can be procured, the means of transportation for an army, horses for the officers and for a corps of three hundred Cavalry.[73]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, May 17, 1780.

Parole Berwick. Countersigns W., E.

Of the Day Tomorrow
- Colonel Livingston
- Lieutenant Colonel Comdt Butler
- Brigade Major, 1st. Pennsylva Brigade

Colonel Procter[74] is appointed Member of the General court martial whereof General Hand is President vice Colonel Ogden excused on account of his regiment being on the lines

[73] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.
[74] Col. Thomas Procter (Proctor).

AFTER ORDERS

Captain John McGowan[75] is appointed Pay master; Lieutenant E. Beatty,[76] Adjutant; and Lieutenant John Pratt,[77] Quartermaster to the 4th. Pennsylvania regiment.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WOODFORD

Head Quarters, Morristown, May 17, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure of receiving your favors of the 8th: and 31st. March and 9th: of April, the last informing me of your arrival in Charles Town. This must have given spirit to the Garrison and I flatter myself may be the means of effectually securing the place. The uncertainty however of your situation or the possibility of conveying this letter safely to you, prevents me from entering upon those parts of yours which relate to Business. I wish you success and happiness and am with real esteem etc.

Be pleased to make my Compliments to Genl. Scott and all the Gentlemen of the line.[78]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Morris Town, May 17, 1780.

Sir: I have the honor to transmit your Excellency a letter inclosed to me by Lt Colo Fleury which he informs me is to

[75] Captain and brigade major of the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment. He had been wounded at Germantown in October, 1777; transferred to the Invalid Regiment in February, 1781; served to close of the war.

[76] Lieut. Erkurius Beatty, of the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment. He was transferred to the Third Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1783; regimental paymaster in May, 1783; served to November, 1783.

[77] Lieut. John Pratt, of the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment. He was transferred to the Third Pennsylvania Regiment in January, 1783, and served to June, 1783.

[78] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

solicit from Congress a prolongation of his furlough.[79] I have no doubt they will chearfully grant this indulgence to an officer whose services intitle him to every mark of consideration and I beg leave to add that their compliance will give me the greatest pleasure.

I presume an extension of Nine months more will answer Colonel Fleury's purpose. I have the honor etc.[80]

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Morristown, May 17, 1780.

Sir: I have recd. yours of the 15th: I shall be glad to be informed whether the Fleet mentioned by you, as having sailed on thursday last, consisted of armed ships or Merchant men, and if the former, their number, force, and destination.[81] I am etc.[82]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL UDNY HAY

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 17, 1780.

Dear Sir: Be pleased to make immediate inquiry what number of the platform plank which were cut last fall and brought down the River still remain at Fishkill or West point, and give direction to Colo. Lewis[83] to have the number made up to

[79] The original of Fleury's letter of March 1 from Versailles is filed with Washington's letter in the *Papers of the Continental Congress* and is indorsed by Charles Thomson: "Granted for 9 Months."

[80] In the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

[81] Dayton replied (May 19): "I . . . should have been more explicit in the letter . . . had I not when I last had the pleasure of seeing your excellency given a particular account of the vessels laying at the hook, prepared for a cruize, of which the fleet I mentioned to have sailed on thursday were composed. From what I can since learn I suspect they were only intended to drive off and clear our privateers from their harbours." Dayton's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[82] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[83] Col. Morgan Lewis. He was deputy quartermaster general of the Northern Department.

1000 of the proper length and thickness. General Schuyler thinks his Mills at Saratoga can furnish the deficiency. As this may be a matter of importance, request Colo. Lewis to have the plank cut and sent down as speedily as possible. I am &c.[84]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Thursday, May 18, 1780.

Parole Carolina. Countersigns Don, Dee.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Johnstone / Lieut. Colonel Commdt Hubly / Brigade Major, 2d Pennsa. Brigade

At a Division General Court martial May 10, 1780, whereof Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Weissenfells was president, Matthew Bell soldier in the 2nd. and James Hanly soldier in the 4th. New York regiments were tried for attempting to desert to the Enemy with their Arms and Accoutrements; also Lancaster Lighthall soldier in the 3d. New York regiment was tried at the same Court for attempting to desert to the Enemy with the Arms and accoutrements of another soldier.

The Court are of opinion that the Charges against Bell and Hanly are fully supported and that they are guilty of a Breach of Article 1st. Section 6th. of the Articles of War:

They are further of opinion that the charge against Lighthall is supported except his taking the Arms and Accoutrements of another Soldier and that he is Guilty of a Breach of the Article and Section aforesaid and do sentence them all Three to be shot to death, upwards of two thirds of the Court agreeing thereto.

His Excellency the Commander in Chief approves the sentence.

[84] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 18, 1780.

My Lord: Colonel Craig of the 3d. Penna. Regiment has laid before me the Copy of a division Court Martial held by your order upon Joseph English for deserting from that Regiment and inlisting in Colo. Livingstons. I observe that your Lordship has disapproved the sentence (which found the prisoner guilty and ordered him to return to his former Regiment) upon a presumption that no Soldiers were inlisted for the War in the year 1776. By this I imagine your Lordship to have been unacquainted with a circumstance upon which the inlistments of a great number of the Pennsylvania troops depends. When the Army was new modelled in Sept. 1776, Commissioners were sent from Pennsylvania to Ticonderoga to arrange the Officers upon the new establishment, and to re-engage as many of the Soldiers as possible for the War, which was the term then fixed upon, tho' it was afterwards unhappily altered. English, Colo. Craig informs me, was among those reinlisted, but being left sick at Albany, as appears from old Muster Rolls, he inlisted into Livingstons.

From the foregoing state, your Lordship will, I am convinced, clearly see the propriety and necessity of ordering the Man to join Colo. Craig. I am etc.[85] [N.Y.H.S.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 18, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I yesterday received your Obliging favor of the 10th Instant. From the great importance of the subject, I confess I am infinitely anxious myself about the issue of the

[85] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

operations against Charles Town, and wish most cordially that we had it in our power to pursue means which would certainly relieve it. The unhappy state of our finance is opposed to this and lays us under every embarrassment that can be conceived. If we could once get this in a more favourable train, our affairs would look up and we might do a Thousand things which are now utterly impracticable. I thank you very much for your suggestions with respect to the mode of giving succour in that Quarter and shall always be happy in the freest communication of your sentiments. The same had often been in my mind, and it would certainly be the most eligible way, if we were in circumstances to pursue it;[86] but besides our distresses on the score of supplies, You will painfully recollect that this Winter and Spring have put a period to the service of no inconsiderable part of our Force. I also thank you for your attention to the Maryland Troops and for your endeavours to assist them. A melancholy consideration indeed, that we cannot move even a small detachment, however interesting the occasion, without the greatest difficulty and delay.

I shall be very happy to see You at Camp again and hope You will without hesitation resume your command in the Pennsylvania line. I know on a former occasion you had some difficulties on this head, but when you consider the point you will see the propriety of the measure. When I have the

[86] Wayne had suggested an operation against New York as the best means of relieving Charleston. He also stated: "Many Gentlemen [Delegates in Congress] in this place [Philadelphia] affect to be very Sanguine in the Defence of Charles Town, and remain in the most unworthy state of torpidity, waiting the Issue; whilst others are depressed or elevated (like the ebbing and flowing of the tide) upon the rect. of every piece of Intelligence, either of a gloomy or pleasing complexion; but an equal supiness pervades the whole, and when they are calling upon your Excellency for troops to send to the Southward, use no exertions to supply their places, or even to furnish provisions or other necessaries for those already on their march."—*Wayne to Washington,* May 10, 1780. Wayne's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

pleasure of seeing You, I shall talk with you more fully on the subject. I am etc.

P. S. I wish you to order the Gd. wch. went from hence by yr. order to rejoin their respective Corps.[87]

To COLONEL CLEMENT BIDDLE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 18, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 16th. acquainting me with your having resigned the Office of Commy. General of Forage, and of the necessity which you are under of repairing to Philada. before the 1st of June to settle the accounts of the department. Justice to you induces me to express my intire approbation of your conduct, so far as it has come under my notice, in the particular line of your duty, and to acknowledge that the army has at several times in very critical circumstances, derived great advantages from your activity and address in giving assistance to the Commissary's and Quarter Master's departments. Should you again incline to engage in the service under any new regulations which may take place, I can assure you that your re-appointment will be a measure highly agreeable to me. I feel myself obliged by your expressions of personal regard which is reciprocal. I am etc.[88]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Morris Town, May 18, 1780.

Dr Sir: I have the happiness to inform your Excellency that the Marquis De La Fayette has brought the interesting intelligence of a French fleet and army which was to sail from France

[87] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison; the P. S. is in that of Washington.

[88] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

early in April for this Continent to cooperate with us. He is gone on to Congress and measures will it is to be hoped be immediately taken by them to put ourselves in a situation to derive the advantage from this succour, which with proper exertion we have a right to expect. You will be sensible that there will be a necessity for the concurrence of the Legislatures of the different states in providing men and supplies. As I am informed your Assembly is now sitting, and may probably be about rising; and as the determination of Congress may not arrive in time to prevent its adjournment, I have thought it proper to give this intimation in confidence that you may keep them together. If they once separate it will be impossible to reassemble them in time to answer our purposes; and it is of infinite importance that they should be assembled.

As this anticipates Congress it is of course only intended for your private information, and is not to be officially made use of to the Assembly.

In the intended cooperation, to whatever point it may be directed, we shall stand in need of all the Continental force we can collect. On this principle I wish to have the regiment at Fort Schuyler relieved, and shall be glad your Excellency will be pleased to order two hundred and fifty men, of the 800 raised by permission of Congress, as speedily as possible, to that post. I propose to leave Lt Colonel Van Dyck and some good sergeant in the garrison to arrange the new corps and perform the duties with vigilance and propriety. It is my wish that the officer who commands the 250 men should be inferior in rank to Lt Col Van Dyck as he is, [I am told, an attentive, diligent] officer and the command may be safely reposed in him. I am &c.[89]

[89] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, May 19, 1780.

Sir: I take the liberty of transmitting to your Excellency's care the inclosed Letters for Governor Rutledge. They are both on the same subject, and also contain Letters for Major General Lincoln. As they respect matters of an interesting nature, I wish them to go by Two Conveyances that there may be the greater chance of their getting to the Governor's hands, and the sooner this could take place the better. If there is no Express going or returning from Philadelphia to South Carolina, at this time, it may perhaps be best to send one of the dispatches by the first post. I have the Honor etc.

P. S. 20th: I am this morning informed from Elizabeth Town that on the 16 and 17 the 44th Regiment and some other Troops embarked at New York with several pieces of Heavy Cannon. The information says they were to sail yesterday under convoy of the Pearl and Thames Frigates and Two Sloops of 20 Guns; and that Hallifax and Cape Breton are their destination. The account adds that they have a good many Horse on board, which if true would seem to be opposed to their going to these places.[90]

To LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 19, 1780.

My Lord: You will perceive by the inclosed letter from General Maxwell that there is a great diversity of opinions respecting the proper position for the Brigade. I would ride down myself and view the different grounds, but I am engaged in business with the Committee of Congress. I would therefore wish your Lordship to go down again in the morning with

[90] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

Captain Rochefontaine and ultimately determine the matter. You are to keep two things in view, a position that will cover the Country, for which the Brigade was sent down; and a proper regard to its own security either from surprise or from an open attack. The people seem so exceedingly desirous of having it near Elizabeth Town, that I would gratify them as far as prudence would possibly admit. They cannot remain in the neighbourhood of the Town, without works of some kind, and yet from the uncertainty of their stay it does not appear worth while to throw up any of much cost or labor, or to destroy private property for the sake of a particular position. This must be the case, if the one generally approved, is fixed upon. It is an Orchard of Mr. De Harts.[91] Something should be determined speedily, for the Troops in their present unsettled situation are neither safe, nor answering the purposes for which they were sent down. I am etc.

Ps. I have instructed Genl. Maxwell on the subject of the person taken carrying Deserters from us to the Enemy.[92]

[N.Y.H.S.]

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

[Hd. Qrs, Morris Town, May 19, 1780.]

I impatiently wait my Dear Marquis to know the result of the arrangements you were to make with Congress. The time slides away so fast and we have so little before us, that every moment is infinitely precious and ought to be improved.

We talked of a Proclamation to the Canadians. If it is not already done, I think it ought not to be delayed. It should be in your own name, and have as much as possible an air of probability. Perhaps it will be more plausible to have two different kinds struck; one intimating to them that the arrival

[91] John(?) De Hart.
[92] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

of a french fleet and army in the River St Lawrence, to cooperate with these states is to be expected [by the way of Rhode Island where they are to touch for to answr. some importt. purposes,] and dwelling on the happy opportunity it will afford them to renew their ancient friendships with France, by joining the allied arms and assisting to make Canada a part of the American confederation with all the privileges and advantages enjoyed by the other members; cautioning them by no means to aid the enemy in their preparations for defending the Province. The other proclamation should be drawn on the supposition of the fleet and army being already arrived, and should contain an animating invitation to arrange themselves under the allied banners. In both proclamations you should hold yourself up as a French and American officer charged both by the King of France and by Congress with a commission to address them upon the occasion. It may indeed be well to throw out an Idea that you are to command the corps of American troops destined to cooperate with the French armament. The more mystery in this business the better. It will get out and it ought to seem to be against our intention.[93]

In a memorandum you left with Col Hamilton, you mention pilots to be sent to Cape Henry to conduct the fleet to Rhode Island. This does not appear to me necessary; as there will be pilots ready at Rhode Island to take the fleet into the Harbour and every Navigator can answer the purpose to the entrance of the Port. If however you think it will be expected that pilots be ready at Cape Henry, you can apply to the Marine Committee who can easily provide them. I am with all Affection etc.

I forgot to observe that something might be addressed to the Savages. I mentioned to you when here the inserting a paragraph in the papers, somewhat to this effect. "We have it from

[93] See Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. Benedict Arnold, June 4, 1780, *post*.

good authority that the Marquis De La Fayette brings the important and agreeable intelligence of a very considerable naval and land force, intended to be sent by his Most Christian Majesty to the succour of these states, and that the Campaign will open with a combined operation against New York. This there is every reason to hope with proper exertions on our part will put a happy period to the war; nor can there be any room to doubt, that the glorious opportunity will be effectually improved. This instance of the friendship of our ally is a new claim to the lasting affection and gratitude of this Country." I think such a paragraph will be useful, [as the people will be roused by it, while the enemy by the address to the Canadians and other demonstrations pointing another way, may be distracted by attending to different objects and weakened.] You will Judge by appearances how far it may be agreeable to Congress.[94]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM MAXWELL

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 19, 1780.

Sir: I received yours of the 17th. by Capt. Rochefontaine. Was I not so taken up with the Committee of Congress now in Camp, I would ride down myself and endeavour to fix upon the most advantageous place and manner for your Brigade to encamp, so as to answer the purpose for which it was sent down and at the same time pay a proper attention to its security. I have therefore instructed Lord Stirling to go down in the Morning with the Engineer and upon a full view and consideration of matters to take such a position as shall, under all circumstances, appear most eligible.

[94] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The portions in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

I would have you inquire minutely whether any laws of the State, at present in force, provide for the punishment of persons taken for seducing soldiers to desert or conveying them to the enemy. If there are none such, I think you may safely bring the person you have in Custody, to trial as a spy found near your Camp. I am fully of opinion that much of our desertion is occasioned by Villains of this kind influencing our Soldiery. I am &c.[95]

To COLONEL GOOSE VAN SCHAICK

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 19, 1780.

Sir: I have applied to His Excellency Governor Clinton to relieve your Regiment at Fort Schuyler, by a sufficient number of the 800 Militia to be taken into Continental pay for the defence of the Frontier, but as the post is very important, I have proposed that Colo. Van Dyck[96] shall remain in command, retaining one or two Commissioned and a few good non Commissioned Officers to assist him. Captain Brown,[97] with his Company of Artillery, will remain in Garrison. Should the Governor accede to this proposal, you will take proper measures to draw your Regiment down to Albany as soon as the relief has arrived at the Fort. When it reaches Albany, be pleased to give me information and I will direct its further Route. I am etc.

P. S. The Regiment may come immediately down as far as the Highlands.[98]

[95] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[96] Lieut. Col. Cornelius Van Dyke, of the First New York Regiment.

[97] Capt. William Brown, of the First Continental Artillery. He was appointed major in January, 1781, and served to June, 1783.

[98] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 19, 1780.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 8th: reached me a few days ago. As C—— junr, has totally declined and C—— Senr seems to wish to do it, I think the intercourse may be dropped, more especially as from our present position the intelligence is so long getting to hand that it is of no use by the time it reaches me. I would however have you take an opportunity of informing the [elder C——] that we may have occasion for his services again in the course of the Summer and that I shall be glad to employ him if it should become necessary and he is willing.

I am endeavouring to open a communication with New York across Staten Island, but who are the agents in the City I do not know. I am &c.[99]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 19, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have the honor to forward You by Express, Two packets which have just been transmitted to my care by His Excellency the Minister, and the Consul of France. According to the Letters which accompanied these dispatches, they will announce to your Excellency the very generous and affectionate resolution of His Most Christian Majesty to send a Land and Naval Armament to cooperate with us, and that their arrival may be very soon expected. I most sincerely congratulate Your Excellency on this interesting event, which I hope, if we avail ourselves properly of it, as well as demonstrating his Majesty's wisdom and regard for us, will be attended with the most

[99] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by D. W. Richards, of New York City. In the draft, which is in the writing of Tench Tilghman, the words in brackets were inserted by Washington, whose capitalization is followed.

important and decisive advantages in our present struggle, and lead to the conclusion we so ardently wish; the establishment of our Independence and an Honourable peace. The Minister and the Consul are very anxious that there should be provided a supply of fresh provisions and Vegetables against the arrival of the fleet, which they seem to think will be at Rhode Island in the first instance, and that arrangements should take place with respect to some other matters. From the importance of the subject they entreat your Excellency's aid to put the business in an immediate and proper train, and influenced by the same opinion, and knowing from a happy experience your readiest disposition to promote the common cause wherever possible, I am confident that their requisition will meet, in every point, with your warmest and most strenuous support.

The Accounts received from Charles Town on our part, only come down to the 15th of April. The Enemy's Batteries had then been opened for some days, without any other effect than killing three privates and a Woman and Child, and firing one or Two Houses. It has however, been reported, that they have received advices in New York to the 1st and some say to the 3d Instant, and that matters had not then undergone any material change. It is certain the York papers to the 15th Instant are silent on Southern operations, which is conclusive with me, that they had nothing important in their favor to that period with respect to them. I have the Honor etc.[1]

*To LUND WASHINGTON

Morris-Town, May 19, 1780.

Dear Lund: Your Letter of the 10th. came to hand last night. I have not yet had leizure to look into the Papers relative to

[1] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

Mercers business; and when I shall, is more than I am, at this moment, able to say, as new scenes are beginning to unfold themselves, which will by no means lessen my present trouble, or attention. You ask how I am to be rewarded for all this? There is one reward that nothing can deprive me of, and that is, the consciousness of having done my duty with the strictest rectitude, and most scrupulous exactness, and the certain knowledge, that if we should, ultimately, fail in the present contest, it is not owing to the want of exertion in me, or the application of every means that Congress and the United States, or the States individually, have put into my hands.

[Mutilated] dence, to whom we are infinitely more indebted than we are to our own wisdom, or our own exertions, has always displayed its power and goodness, when clouds and thick darkness seemed ready to overwhelm us. The hour is now come when we stand much in need of another manifestation of its bounty however little we deserve it. In my next I may be more particular at present I shall only add that with much truth and sincerity I am, etc. Mrs. Washington desires to be remembered to yours and you.[2]

To VICOMTE DE LA TOUCHE-TRÉVILLE[3]

Morris Town, May 19, 1780.

Sir: I have the pleasure to transmit you a packet which was inclosed to me by the Marquis De La Fayette. He informs me that it contains permission for you to make a short cruise.[4]

[2] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

[3] Louis René Madeline Lavassor, Vicomte de La Touche-Tréville. He was a captain in the French Navy, and at this time commanding the French frigate *Hermione* at Boston.

[4] At this point the draft has the following crossed out: "in which I shall be very happy to hear of your success."

The Marquis has inspired me with an opinion of your character from several details with which he has favoured me that gives me the fullest assurance you will do every thing in your power to merit success and I shall be particularly happy to hear you have met with it. The interest with which he speakes of you upon all occasions is an additional motive to those sentiments of perfect consideration with which I have the honor etc.[5]

To VICOMTE DE LA TOUCHE-TRÉVILLE

May 19, 1780.

Sir: I execute with the greatest pleasure a commission with which the Marquis De La Fayette has done me the honor to charge me for you. Influenced by the double motive of complying with his desire and giving you a mark of the esteem with which the character I have heard of you has inspired me. It is to give you a detail of the enemy's naval force and disposition at New York. The last particular account we had of them was received about ten days since. The vessels of force then in the harbour were The Russel of 74; the Pearl of 32; the Thames 32; the Delight 28; the Delaware 28; the Galatea 28; and the Swift, brig of 14. These except two, the Pearl and another not known, sailed out of the Hook the 11th. instant. 'Tis said their destination was to escort the Thames, going to England with dispatches, clear of the coast and afterwards to cruise in quest of Paul Jones whose approach they have been some time expecting. There of course remain at New York only two frigates.

It appears to me probable that the destination supposed is the true one. In this case they will be likely to steer towards the Eastward, as they will naturally conjecture that Jones' squadron

[5]The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

will make for an Eastern port. If so, in going out you may have occasion for all your vigilance not to fall into their hands.

It is possible they may be going towards the Southward. There are rumours in New York that the enemy intend to withdraw their troops from South Carolina in consequence of late European advices. This fleet may be sent to meet and assist in escorting them to New York, or it may be supposed that Jones will be bound for the Delaware.

I confess myself at a loss to draw any certain conclusion.

The Marquis requests me to add my Ideas of the manner in which you can indulge your inclination to be useful with the greatest prospect of success. Though I am a bad judge in affairs of this kind, I should freely hazard my opinion in compliance with his request, if I did not think the circumstances peculiarly unfavourable. I should apprehend you would run the greatest risk in cruising off New York, where you would have the best chance of doing something; on the other hand, you have not leisure to go any distance from the coast to endeavour to fall into the usual tract of vessels coming from England or Ireland to New York or going from the West Indies to those places; your time is too short to hope to effect any thing by such a plan.

You may just appear before the Hook and proceed directly towards the Capes of Virginia, or some other intermediate point between New York and Charles Town, in hopes of falling in with vessels passing from one of those ports to the other. This however would be a delicate manœuvre and perhaps hardly justified by the probability of succeeding.

I venture these hints to justify the Marquis's desire and to prove to you how happy I should be to have it in my power to be useful to you. Your better judgment and the lights you can obtain where you are make them superfluous in any other view.

Accept the assurances of the perfect consideration and esteem etc.[6]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Friday, May 19, 1780.

Parole Delaware. Countersigns S., H.

Of the Day Tomorrow
- Colonel Courtlandt
- Lieutenant Colonel Willet
- Brigade Major, Hand's Brigade

To Command the Manœuvring Battalions Tomorrow
- Colonels Angell and Stewart
- Major Torrey
- Lieutenant Colonel Huntington

The Manœuvring Battalions to be formed tomorrow morning Six o clock precisely; Brigade Major of the second Pennsylvania Brigade to attend the formation &ca.

Clinton's and Hand's Brigades each give an Adjutant and Colors as before.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Saturday, May 20, 1780.

Parole Morocco. Countersigns Nantz, Nile.

Of the Day Tomorrow
- Colonel Gansevoort
- Lieutenant Colonel Hay
- Brigade Major, Clinton's Brigade

Colonel Biddle being about to leave Camp requests the favor of the Gentlemen officers of the Army who have any Claims for keeping their own horses in forage to bring or send their Accompts, properly certified for settlement to his Office in Morristown in the course of the next Week that he may ascertain the Sums due and make Application for Money to discharge the same.

[6] The draft is signed "A. H[amilton]."

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

[Morris Town, May 20, 1780.]

I had written the inclosed my Dear Marquis previous to the receipt of yours of the 17th. which arrived late yesterday.[7] The dispatches accompanying them for the Eastward were sent off before day this morning. Mr. Hamilton wrote to Captain De La Touche on the points you mention. I also wrote to him and to Governor Trumbull.

The measures that have been taken are all evidently proper. The communication to Mr. Holker was necessary and can be attended with no inconvenience. I could wish that Gentleman might accompany you to camp. His knowledge of the country and intelligence in business, will enable him to be useful in the arrangements we shall have to make.

General Greene will give all the aid in his power in the article of waggons, or in any thing else in which it may be wanted [and his means extend].

I hope the sending the Committee will not be delayed a moment. The members appointed to draw the instructions are very good men. I shall be sorry, however, if General Schuyler is not of the Committee.[8]

The sooner the Chevalier can make it convenient to honor me with a visit, the better. His advice and concurrence in some points may be very important. Will you present my respects to him? [The enemy are embarking more Troops at N. Y and heavy Cannon, for, as it is said, Hallifax and Cape Breton.]

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[7] Lafayette's letter to Washington of May 17, mentioned above, is not found in the *Washington Papers*.

[8] The committee mentioned seems to be that on the memorial of the French Minister which had been appointed Jan. 26, 1780, as the letter to Washington from the President of Congress (May 20, 1780) inclosed resolves of January 31 and May 16 and 20; that of May 16 relating to Lafayette and those of May 20 relating to Lafayette and cooperation with the expected French armament. (See *Journals of the Continental Congress* of these dates.)

I send a letter with this to [halt][9] Lee's corps.

You will find that I have anticipated that part of your letter which relates to pilots for Cape Henry. You will act in this matter as you think proper.

As the post is just setting out I have not time to enlarge.

Finish your business as soon as you can and hasten home, for so I would always have you consider Head Quarters and my house.

Mrs. Washington sends you her affectionate compliments; the Gentlemen of the family theirs.

Believe me on all occasions with the greatest tenderness and sincerity, etc.[10]

To MAJOR HENRY LEE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 20, 1780.

Dear Sir: You will be pleased to halt your Horse and Foot 'till further orders, wherever they may be when this reaches you. Should the Horse be in Philada. and it should be found difficult to subsist them there, you will consult the Board of War and remove them to any place which may be found more convenient in the neighbourhood. A very few days will probably determine whether you are to proceed further just now. I am &c.[11]

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 20, 1780.

Sir: I have this morning recd. yours without a date. If the embarkation mentioned by you is intended for Hallifax and Cape Breton I cannot conceive why it should partly consist of

[9] The word "recall" is crossed off.

[10] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

[11] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Horse, which will be in a manner useless at either of those places. I would therefore wish your emissary to make as minute inquiry as possible into their real destination; desire him also in every communication which he makes to be very particular in the number and force of the Vessels of War which remain in the Harbour, and what obstructions they have made at the entrance of the Harbour. I am &c.[12]

*To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Morris Town, May 21, 1780.

My dear Sir: Your opinion on the foregoing quœries,[13] and on such other matters as relates to the business which is unfolding and wch requires the closest attention under our circumstances will be thankfully received by Yr. etc.

QUŒRIES

Supposing the enemy to continue in their present divided state; where can they be attacked to the greatest advantage? and in what manner can we operate most effectually against them?

Is not that part of their Army and shipping which is at the Southward more exposed and liable to a more certain blow, than the other part which is at New York, where there is uncertainty of getting into the harbour, and where works surrounding the City are already established for its defence, and every possible exertion using to increase and strengthen them?

What danger, for want of secure harbours for Ships of the line, would the French Fleet be involved in on the Carolina Coast? What difficulties should we have to encounter in getting

[12] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[13] This autograph draft follows the "Quœries," but for mechanical convenience it here precedes them.

there, with the necessary apparatus, Provisions &ca? And how could we be supported when there, in case an enterprize of this kind should otherwise be thought eligable.

Supposing again, the Enemy to form a junction of their force at New-York; what is practicable to be done in that case? And what measures had best be pursued in consequence?

Again, let us suppose the enemy to have succeeded at Charles Town. That they have captured the Garrison employed in defence of it. That they mean to leave a sufficient Force in the States of So. Carolina and Georgia to hold the Towns of Chas. Town and Savanna without aiming at any thing more in that quarter, at present. And the rest arrived at New York; what is best for us to do in that case?

In a word, my wish is, to have *our* situation, and that of the *enemy,* considered in all the points of view they can be placed, and the most advantageous plan of operation proposed for each.

What force in aid of the French Army and Continental Troops, will it be necessary to call upon the States for, in case of an operation against New York? (—— To answer this question, it is necessary to premise, that in New York and its dependencies, there are at least 8,000 regular Troops besides about 4,000 Refugees and Militia; how many of the latter (when matters become serious) can be brought to act is more than I can tell. At the Southward there are about 7,000 Regular Troops under the immediate command of Sr. Henry Clinton.

Supposing the enemy to continue in the divided state they are at present, and New York (the Troops in it I mean) should be our object, how far with perfect safety would it be practicable to let the French Troops act seperately on long Island if it should be judged expedient to attack the Town by

a combined operation in that Quarter, and from York Island at the same time?

Where had the French best establish their Hospitals, and deposit their heavy stores?

Under a full view of all circumstances what position is most eligable for the American Army to take previous to the arrival of the french fleet and Army? And when shd. it be taken?[14]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Sunday, May 21, 1780.

Parole Petersburgh. Countersigns O., G.

Of the Day Tomorrow
- Colonel Jackson
- Lieutenant Colonel Sill[15]
- Brigade Major, Stark's Brigade

For Manœuvring Tomorrow
- Colonel Craig
- Lieutenant Colonel Commdt Weissenfels
- Major C. Stewart[16] and Talbot
- Adjutants, 1 Pennsa. and Stark's brigades.

Colours as before; The Battalions to be form'd at Six o clock tomorrow A. M. Major Church to attend the Formation.

The Pennsylvania and Connecticutt divisions and Hand's Brigade give the Morristown Guards and Fatigue the ensuing week.

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[14] Schuyler's reply to the queries is in the *Washington Papers,* under date of May 28, 1780, which is the date on which he began his reply. It is 18 folio pages in length and dated at the end July 7, before which date Washington could not have received it.

[15] Lieut. Col. David Fithian Sill, of the First Connecticut Regiment. He retired in January, 1781.

[16] Maj. Christopher Stuart (Stewart), of the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment. He was appointed lieutenant colonel of the Third Pennsylvania Regiment in April, 1780, and retired in January, 1781.

A General Court martial of the Line to sit tomorrow morning nine o clock at a hut lately occupied by Major Winder for the Trial of such persons as shall come before them; Colonel Gansevoort to preside: Lieutenant Colonel Willet and Major James Moore, a Captain and one Sub, from the Pennsylvania division; Two Captains and a Sub from the Connecticut division; a Captain and a Sub from Hand's brigade; one Captain and one Sub, from Clinton's; and one Sub from Stark's to attend as Members.

To prevent in future an inconvenience and irregularity which the General is informed have frequently happened of late in sending part of the Morristown Guard to their Brigades who did not come properly supplied with provision in order to obtain Certificates from their Commissaries of their having provision due them that they might be furnish'd in Town; The Brigade Majors are previous to their men's going to the Grand parade to examine the State of their Provision and if they are not supplied they are to send the necessary Certificates from the Brigade Commissaries by the Adjutants of the Day, who will deliver them to the Officers of the Guards in which the Men are and which will be a Voucher for the Commissary in Town for charging the respective brigades with the Issues made in Consequence.

To MAJOR THOMAS LLOYD MOORE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 22, 1780.

Sir: I have received Your Letter of Yesterday, and am glad to hear that you have lost none of your detachment by Desertion. With respect to the attempt which you are desirous of

On May 21 Harrison wrote to Capt. William Reily, of the Fourth Maryland Regiment, by direction of Washington, to continue his details of men at the Pluckemin and Baskingridge hospitals. A number of sick had succeeded in deserting after their recovery. Harrison's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

making against the party of the Enemy, who are establishing themselves at Bull's ferry,[17] I leave the matter with yourself, to act in it or not as circumstances may justify; but the enterprise should not be undertaken I think, without you have a very good and almost certain prospect both of succeeding in it and bringing off your Detachment safe afterwards. The most profound secrecy and the greatest rapidity in the execution of the business will be essential to give it the least chance of success. I am etc.[18]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Monday, May 22, 1780.

Parole Denmark. Countersigns Gor, Gaul.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Angell
Lieutenant Colonel Huntington
Brigade Major, 1st. Connecticut

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM MAXWELL

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 23, 1780.

Sir: We have had repeated accounts that a considerable Fleet has been seen off the Coast of Monmouth, but as none of them have been sufficiently accurate to determine whether it is really so, or whether if so, they are Friends or Enemies, the Marquis de la Fayette concludes to send down Colo. Jimat[19] to the Coast to gain certain information. He will be at Brunswick tomorrow Morning by 10 OClock. You will therefore be pleased to make choice of an intelligent Officer of your

[17] The enterprise against Bull's Ferry was carried out by General Wayne, who reported upon it to Washington July 21, 1780. Wayne's letter is in the *Washington Papers* and is printed in Sparks's *Correspondence of the American Revolution*, vol. 3, p. 34.

[18] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

[19] Col. Jean Joseph, Chevalier de Gimat (Jimat). He was aide to Lafayette.

Brigade, well acquainted in the County of Monmouth, to meet and accompany Colo. Jimat, and that they may be secure against the disaffected, you will be pleased to order a party of eight or ten Dragoons from Bedkins Corps if he can mount so many, and if not, to take some of the Militia Horse to make up the number. The Officer will keep an account of the Expense which he incurs upon this occasion and it shall be repaid him. Let the party be punctual to the time. I am &c.[20]

To JEREMIAH WADSWORTH

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 23, 1780.

Dear Sir: The Bearer the Chevalier de Fayolle is charged with dispatches for providence in Rhode Island of so much importance that it may be necessary for their speedy conveyance to change his Horses upon the Road. Should he have occasion to do this at Harford, I must earnestly request you to use your influence to procure fresh Horses for him. I should not have put you to this trouble, but I am not certain whether any Quarter Master is established at Hartford, and the Chevalier being a stranger would not, in case there is none, have known to whom to apply. Should the public not be able to furnish Horses, and you put yourself to any expence upon that account, I will see you repaid. I am etc.[21]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 23, 1780.

Sir: I have the pleasure to inform Your Excellency in confidence, that a French fleet may be soon looked for on our Coast.

[20] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[21] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

The place where they will arrive is not certainly known, but they may probably come to Rhode Island. The Chevalier Fayole is charged with some dispatches for the Admiral, which is of great importance he should receive as soon as possible after his arrival. The Chevalier is also instructed to procure a sufficient number of skilful and faithful pilots to go on board the Fleet the moment they may arrive, and that there may not be the least possible delay in the business, He is to have a proper number of suitable Boats in readiness, in which they may proceed. Your Excellency I am persuaded will be impressed at the first instant with the importance of this event; and I take the liberty to recommend Mr. Fayole to your good Offices and to request that you will assist him in making the earliest provision of the Boats and pilots of the description I have mentioned, and in every other matter where he may require it. I have the Honor etc.[22]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Tuesday, May 23, 1780.

Parole Palermo. Countersigns P., B.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Meigs / Lieutenant Colonel Murray[23] / Brigade Major, 2d. Connecticut

For manœuvring Lieutenant Colonels Commandant Butler and Hubley; Majors Trescott and Parr; Two Adjutants from the Connecticut Division; Colours as before; Brigade Major from Clinton's brigade to attend the Formation of the Manœuvring Battalions Tomorrow Morning Six o'Clock.

[22] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

[23] Lieut. Col. John Murray, of the Second Pennsylvania Regiment.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 23 [–24], 1780.

Dear Sir: I am exceedingly sorry to learn by your favr. of the 19th:, the distressed situation of your frontier, more especially at a time, when our attention will in all probability be called, in a great measure, to the operations upon the Coast. My confidential letter of the 18th will explain my meaning. By that you will perceive the impossibility, under present appearances and circumstances, of sparing any further force from the Continental Army to act in conjunction with the Militia. I imagine it will be scarcely deemed prudent to withdraw Col: Van Schaicks Regt. from Fort Schuyler except matters take an unexpected turn in that quarter, altho' the addition of so respectable a Corps would be very essential should the measures for which we are preparing be carried into execution. From the State of our Magazines here, and from your representation of the situation of matters above, I do not see how troops would be subsisted, supposing they could be spared. We are now upon half allowance of Meat and every now and then the troops are intirely without. Whether the emergency of the occasion, and the flattering prospect of putting an end to the War by one vigorous effort will induce the states to throw in extraordinary aids and supplies I cannot tell; but if such effects are not produced, or some means can be fallen upon to procure Money to enable the Commissaries and Quarter Masters to provide in the common mode, I do not know what may be the consequences. I have thought that as the peace of the whole Northern Frontier in a great measure depends upon checking the most dangerous Body of the enemy, which will act upon the Mohawk River, it might not be amiss for the

Legislature of your State to call upon that of Massachusetts for an aid of Men from their Western Counties. They will shortly be informed of the necessity of assembling our whole Continental force to a point, and will therefore perhaps more readily come into the measure.

I am happy in knowing that your Excellency will attribute my refusal of your request to the true cause, inability. It is certainly to be lamented that we cannot oppose a sufficient force to every point upon which we are attacked, but that not being the case, prudence and policy both dictate the expediency of directing our efforts against the source from whence all our difficulties springs. I have the Honor &c.

24th May.

Since writing the foregoing I have been favd. with your Excellency's letter of the 21st. I at the same time recd. a letter from Colo Van Schaick, in which he mentions the critical situation of Fort Schuyler for want of provision, there not being more as he informs me than one month's supply in the Garrison by the last Return. This is a matter of so much importance that every measure ought to be fallen upon to give Relief. Genl. Schuyler informs me of a parcel of Corn in the possession of Colo. Lewis; I shall direct Colo. Van Schaick to endeavour to get it thrown into the Fort. As to Salt Meat, which is the only kind which is proper I know not from whence it is to come. We have so totally exhausted the Continental Stock, that the Commy Genl. has been obliged to borrow three hundred Barrels from private Gentlemen in Philada. to endeavour to support the Army until Grass Cattle can be brought from New England. The Garrison at West Point are, if possible, in a worse situation than we are here. I am confident that your Excellency and the Legislature will, considering the importance of Fort Schuyler, and the inability to afford any present

relief from the Continental Magazines, take every possible step to throw in a supply. I shall not draw down Van Schaicks Regt. until we see further into the State of matters to the Westward.

I am infinitely obliged by your ready promise to concur with any requisitions which may be made to your state, should our expected co-operation be carried into execution. A Committee of Congress appointed for the purpose of calling upon the States for what supplies may be deemed necessary upon such an occasion are now in Camp; You may therefore expect to hear from them upon the subject in a few days. I have the honor etc.[24]

GENERAL ORDERS

Headquarters, Morristown, Wednesday, May 24, 1780.

Parole Egypt. Countersigns L., Merk

Of the Day Tomorrow { Brigadier General Huntington / Major Torrey / Brigade Major, 1st Penna. brigade

Tomorrow each regiment must make a return of Arms and Accoutrements wanting; No Arms to be delivered to Waggoners, Waiters of the General Field or Staff officers but only to those men who are to appear in Action. Eight Musquets without Bayonets to be deliver'd to each regiment for the Camp colour men.

These returns must be signed by the Colonels or officers commanding Battalions and countersigned by the regimental Quarter masters and delivered to the Brigade Inspectors who are to digest them into a Brigade Return and sign it. They are then to be delivered to the brigade Conductors who are to present them to the General of Artillery for an order for their

[24] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

delivery on the Field Commissary. After the Brigade Conductor shall have received the Stores from the field Commissary he is to deliver them to the regimental Quarter masters according to the Returns who are to receipt to the Conductors for them.

Previous to the reception of the new Arms and Accoutrements all the old Arms and Accoutrements in possession of the regiments or brigade Conductors must be delivered to the Field Commissary of Military stores and the Colonels and Commanding officers of Battalions are to be responsible that all the damaged and spare Arms and Accoutrements are delivered in, and Arms and Accoutrements be retained for the men only.

At a Brigade General Court martial whereof Major Reid was President the 13th. instant, Corporal Thomas Clark of the 4th. and Thomas Calvin of the 11th. Pennsylvania regiments were tried for attempting to desert to the Enemy with their Arms.

The Court are of opinion that they are Guilty, being breach of the 1st. Article 6th. section of the Articles of War (more than two thirds of the Court agreeing) and sentence them to suffer Death.

The Commander in Chief confirms the Sentence.

To THE COMMITTEE OF COOPERATION[25]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 24, 1780.

Gentlemen: I have considered the powers vested in you by the Resolution of Congress of the 19th Instt.[26] The importance

[25] Philip Schuyler, John Mathews, and Nathaniel Peabody.

[26] See *Journals of the Continental Congress* of that date for drawing out the supplies for the Army.

of taking every step on the surest ground induces me to request your opinion of the competency of these powers to the objects they are intended to answer, and whether you think they will enable you as far as is practicable in our circumstances, to draw forth the resources of the Country. If you should be of opinion they are not, I entreat you will have the goodness to point out in what they appear to you to be defective, and what alterations or additions may be necessary to render them as far as possible adequate to the emergency. I have the honor etc.[27]

To COLONEL GOOSE VAN SCHAICK

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 24, 1780.

Sir: I have received yours of the 19th: inclosing Copies of several letters from Gentlemen upon the frontier expressing their apprehensions of danger from the incursions of the enemy. Under present appearances and circumstances I have determined not to draw your Regt. from Fort Schuyler, and I cannot but hope that by their remaining there, and the cover which will be afforded by the 800 Militia when embodied and properly disposed, the people will be encouraged to stay at home and give occasional succour. The supply of the Garrison of Fort Schuyler is so essential a matter that I have wrote pressingly to Governor Clinton upon the subject; pointed out to him the exhausted state of the Continental Magazines, and requested him to leave no means untried to raise and throw in a supply. General Schuyler informs me that there is a parcel of Corn near Albany under the direction of Colo. Lewis. You will be pleased to call upon him for it, and endeavour to have it, as speedily as possible sent up to the Fort. I am &c.[28]

[27] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.
[28] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To THE OFFICER OF GENERAL MAXWELL'S BRIGADE[29]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 24, 1780.

Sir: You are to accompany Colo. Jimat to the County of Monmouth and to such parts of the Coast as he may find occasion to visit. You are, I imagine, well apprized of the disaffection of many of the inhabitants in that Quarter and of the necessity which there will be of guarding against any attempts of theirs to take you off. It may perhaps add to your security if you can prevail upon some of the well affected Gentlemen of the Country to accompany you whenever you ride towards the shore. I am &c.[30]

To DOCTOR JAMES CRAIK

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 24, 1780.

A French fleet and army may possibly arrive in a short time at Rhode Island. At the request of Mr. De Corné,[31] Commissary of War to His Most Christian Majesty (wishing to make previous to their arrival the necessary provision of hospitals and refreshments for the sick) I am to desire you will without delay proceed to Providence in the State of Rhode Island, and undertake the care of this business.

The objects that demand your attention are these: to provide one or more convenient buildings for the reception of the sick belonging to the fleet and army which you will estimate at about twelve to fifteen hundred. They must have appartments sufficient to contain these without crouding them, and so as to

[29] The draft adds "who is to accompany Colo. Jimat to Monmouth,"

[30] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[31] Louis Dominique Ethis de Corny. He was Commissary of War for the French Army in America.

admit a separate distribution and treatment of each particular disease. They must have an airy and salubrious situation; be contiguous to each other, if possible; have yards and gardens, admitting communication from one to the other, so as to unite and facilitate the service.

Independent of the apartments for the sick, there must be one or more kitchens; an apothecary's shop; a magazine for drugs and remedies; an oven; a bakery; a deposit for the provisions; lodgings for the director surgeons Physicians and others employed with them; a Magazine near for the effects of the Hospital and in short all the conveniences that may promote this interesting service.

You will have provided such a number of oxen sheep poultry and vegetables as you deem necessary for the first demands of the Hospital. I give you a letter for Governor Greene to furnish you with whatever aid you may want; you will make him an estimate and inform him to what extent his assistance will be requisite.

I rely on your judgment prudence and activity that all these arrangements will be made in the best manner circumstances will permit, and in a manner satisfactory to those for whose benefit they are intended. You know how much we owe to our allies and what claims they have upon our gratitude and affection for a reciprocity of good offices.[32]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 24, 1780.

Sir: Captain Roche Fontaine will have the honor of presenting this Letter to Your Excellency. He is charged with dispatches for the French Admiral and is on business of the same

[32] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

nature with that mentioned in my Letter of Yesterday by the Chevalier Fayole. I request that your Excellency will give him every assistance which may be necessary to facilitate the purposes of His Commission. I have the Honor etc.

P. S. Capn Roche Fontaine will be stationed at Seconnet where it will be necessary for him to have some boats and pilots under his direction. I have written to Major Perkins in case the Artillery and Stores are not removed from Providence to let them remain there for the present.[33]

*To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Morris-Town, May 25, 1780.

Dear Sir: Your private letter of the 22d. came safe. The reduced state of our Brigades; the deranged situation of the Troops in consequence of it, and the accumulated distresses under which we labour from a variety of causes, renders it difficult for me, at this moment, to digest any plan of formation, and to make a disposition for the Campaign, that is pleasing and satisfactory to myself.

When I am able to do these, you may rest satisfied that so far as your wishes, and the public interest comports, my inclination will assist the first. More than this you having been pleased to assure me you do not desire, I cannot but thank you for the expression of it, as a contrary sentiment could not fail of adding to the perplexities of a mind already loaded with a thousand embarrassments.[34]

[33] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

"If the Continental Artillery and Stores should not have been removed from Providence when this reaches you, you will be pleased to let them remain 'till further orders."—*Washington to Maj. William Perkins,* May 24, 1780. This draft is in the *Washington Papers.*

[34] Howe had asked to be relieved from the command of West Point and assigned to active field duty.

I should have been more full, and free, in my communications on this subject, and in some other important matters, if time would allow me; rather, if I durst run the hazard of a miscarriage of my letter. I cannot forbear adding however, that I am sollicitous about the Gabions, Fascines, and scantling for Platforms, as mentioned in my letter of this date, and that it is my earnest wish, that as many hands, and as much time as you can well spare, may be employed in this business. I am etc.

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 25, 1780.

Dr Sir: I have this minute received Your Letter respecting the Marquiss de la Fayette and Monsr Corny's request that you will employ the Continental Agents and such Others as you may think necessary to procure Waggons and Draft and Saddle Horses for the French Army and wishing to know whether it would be approved by me. The measure is certainly necessary and it will have my approbation. I am etc.[35]

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, May 25, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have received Your Two favors of the 22nd. Instant.[36] The distresses of the Troops under yr Comd give me great pain and what adds to it is, I have it not in my power to administer to their relief. Our situation here is equally melancholy, for the Troops on several days have been intirely without meat, and at best on half and quarter allowance for a considerable time. I very sincerely hope that you will derive

[35] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.
[36] Both letters are in the *Washington Papers*.

support from Connecticut, in consequence of your Letter and the Representation which would be made by Colo Hay. With respect to the Flour ordered to the North River, I find on inquiry, it has been stopped at Springfield for want of the means of transportation. Colo Stewart the Issuing Commissary set out yesterday to get it in motion again if possible. If this difficulty can be surmounted, a further supply shall be attempted. On account of the deranged state of finance and the total want of money, every thing is almost at a stand.

If You can spare any Men for the purpose, I wish you to employ them in making fascines and Gabions. The nearer they can be made to the River the better. I fear we shall find but a bad account of those which were prepared on the Sound; but even if this should not be the case, we ought to provide a considerable number.

I thank You for your intelligence. A variety of reports of the same nature with respect to Sir Henry Clintons raising the seige of Charles town, and returning have been received through other Channels. How far they are to be depended on, I cannot determine; but it seems beyond doubt that the Enemy are under great anxiety about something. I have had no official accounts from Charles Town myself since the 9th of April; but Letters have been received by Gentlemen from their Friends in the Country, as low down as the 24th mentioning that the Enemy seemed to be turning the siege into a Blockade.

I am pained to find that the spirit of resigning still prevails in the Massachusetts line. A day scarcely passes without one or more applications on this head. This conduct at this time is very disreputable to those who practice it, unless in cases of very pressing necessity and cannot but be injurious to the service. If the same disposition should continue when we come to act in the Field, there will not be Officers to command the Men. I wish you to speak to the Brigadiers and Field Officers

on the subject who I am persuaded will use their influence to prevent so disagreeable and pernicious a practice. I am etc.[37]

To COLONEL GOOSE VAN SCHAICK

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 25, 1780.

Sir: Besides the Corn mentioned in my Letter of Yesterday under the direction of Colo Lewis, which I desired you to have sent up to Fort Schuyler as soon as possible, I have directed the Issuing Commissary Colo Stewart to forward a Hundred Barrels of flour from hence without delay to New Windsor, to be conveyed from thence by Colo Hay to Albany to your care. This is intended as a farther supply for Fort Schuyler, and I request that you will apply to the Quarter Master and exert every practicable means in concert with him to have it thrown into the Garrison without a moments loss of time. From the unhappy state of our Provision Magazine, it is essential that great œconomy should be used at that post to lengthen out the Supplies, and the Troops, to save the Salt provision which should be kept for a case of emergency, should draw as far and as long as circumstances will possibly permit, support from the Country. This I should hope and suppose may be done while ever the Country is open, and it certainly ought, as in case of an investiture of the post there will be nothing to rely on but the Salt provision. I will if possible, have a small supply of this sent to your care to be forwarded also to the Garrison with every practicable degree of expedition. I am etc.[38]

[37] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

On May 25 Richard Kidder Meade, by direction of Washington, wrote to William Langbourne, aide de camp to Howe, respecting the resignations of Capt. Peter Page, of the Thirteenth Massachusetts Regiment; Ensign William Rawson, of the First Rhode Island Regiment; Ensign John Starbird (Starbord), of the First Massachusetts Regiment; and an Ensign Page. "You will be pleased to inform these Gentn. that the General cannot help expressing his extreme concern at the consequences that must follow such frequent resignations." Meade's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

[38] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 25, 1780.

Dr. Sir: Since I wrote requesting You to join me at this Camp, some events have taken place, which will make it necessary for me to alter the arrangements I then had in contemplation. This being the case, you will be pleased to remain for the present where you are, 'till you hear from me. I am etc.[39]

*To THE COMMITTEE OF COOPERATION

Morris-Town, May 25, 1780.

Gentlemen: I have attentively considered the circular letter to the different States[40] which you did me the honor to communicate for my perusal, and I am happy to find, that my ideas perfectly correspond with those of the Committee.

The view they have given of our situation is just, full and explicit; The measures they have recommended are well adapted to the emergency and of indispensable necessity. I very freely give it as my opinion, that unless they are carried into execution in the fullest extent and with the greatest decision and rapidity, it will be impossible for us to undertake the intended co-operation with any reasonable prospect of success.

The consequences you have well delineated. The succour designed for our benefit will prove a serious misfortune; and instead of rescuing us from the embarrassments we experience and from the danger with which we are threatened will in all probability, precipitate our ruin. Drained and Weakened as we already are, the exertions we shall make, though they may be too imperfect to secure success, will at any rate be such as

[39] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

[40] A copy of the Committee's circular to the States from New Hampshire to Virginia, inclusive, is dated May 25, 1780, and is in the *Washington Papers*.

to leave us in a state of relaxation and debility, from which it will be difficult if not impracticable to recover. The Country exhausted; The people dispirited; the consequence and reputation of these States in Europe sunk; Our friends chagrined and discouraged; our Enemies deriving new credit, new confidence, new resources.

We have not, nor ought we to wish an alternative. The Court of France has done so much for us, that we must make a decisive effort on our part. Our situation demands it; 'tis expected. We have the means to success without some unforeseen accident, and it only remains to employ them. But the conjuncture requires all our wisdom and all our energy. Such is the present state of this Country, that the utmost exertion of its resources, though equal, is not more than equal to the object and our measures must be so taken as to call them into immediate and full effect.

There is only one thing, I should have been happy the Committee had thought proper to take up on a larger scale. I mean the supply of Men by Draught. Instead of compleating the deficiencies of the quotas assigned by the resolution of Congress of the 9th. of February last, it would in my apprehension be of the greatest importance, that the respective States should fill their Battalions to their complement of five hundred and four rank and file. Considering the different possible dispositions of the enemy and the different possible operations on our part, we ought not to have less than Twenty thousand Continental efficient troops. The whole number of Battalions from New Hampshire to Pensylvania inclusive, if complete would not amount to this force. The total would be twenty three thousand One hundred and eighty four rank and file, from which the customary deductions being made, there will not remain more than about Eighteen thousand fit for the Service

of the field. To this may be added the remainder of the Sixteen Regiments[41] amounting to about one thousand.

Unless the principal part of the force be composed of men regularly organized, and on the continuance of whose Services we can rely, nothing decisive can be attempted. The Militia are too precarious a dependance to justify such an attempt, where they form a material part of the plan. Militia cannot have the necessary habits nor the consistency, either for an assault or a Seige. In employing them essentially, we should run a risk of being abandoned, in the most critical moments. The expence and the consumption of Provisions and Stores (which we are bound by every motive to œconomise) will be very considerably increased. As we should not be able to keep the same body in the field during the whole campaign, we should a great part of the time have a double set of men to pay and feed, those in actual service, those on the March to relieve them or returning home when relieved. The operations of husbandry will suffer in proportion.

The mode by Draught is, I am persuaded the only efficacious one to obtain men, it appears to me certain, that it is the only one to obtain them in time, nor can the period, you have appointed for bringing them into the field be delayed without defeating the object. I have little doubt, that at any time, and much less at the present juncture, the powers of government exerted with confidence will be equal to the purpose of Draughting. The hopes of the people elevated by the prospects before them will induce a chearful compliance, with this and all the other measures of vigor, which have been recommended, and which the exigency requires.

Notwithstanding the extension of the Draught which I have taken the liberty to advise, occasional aids of Militia will be

[41] The Sixteen Additional Continental regiments.

still wanted, but in much less number in this case than in the other.

I have entire confidence that the respective Legislatures will be fully impressed with the importance and delicacy of the present juncture, and will second the views of the Committee by the most speedy and vigorous efforts. With every sentiment of respect etc.

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM GREENE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 25, 1780.

Sir: Doctor Craick, Assistant Director Genl. of the Hospitals in our Army, will have the honor of delivering this Letter to Your Excellency. This Gentleman comes to Providence to provide Hospitals and such refreshments as may be wanted in the first instance for the Sick, which may be on board the Fleet of His Most Christian Majesty when it arrives. The Doctor will consult with your Excellency about the Houses which will be necessary and proper upon the occasion, and on the best mode of obtaining the refreshments which he may think it essential to provide. He will stand very materially in need of your good Offices in this interesting business, and in a particular manner will want the assistance of the State, either to advance him money or their credit for laying in the requisite supplies. This I am persuaded they will most readily give him from an earnest desire to afford every possible comfort and accomodation to the Sick of Our Good and Great Ally, who have the strongest claim to our attention and generosity. Your Excellency will be pleased to have the Accounts of the disbursements incurred on the occasion kept in a clear and particular manner, which will be punctually paid by Monsieur Corné, Commissary at War to His Most Christian Majesty, or Mr. Danmour[42] his

[42] Chevalier D'Anmours, Consul of France.

Consul, in Gold and Silver or in Bills of Exchange on France, on their arrival at Providence. One of these Gentlemen will be there in a short time. I have the Honor etc.[43]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 25, 1780.

Dr. Sir: Since my Letter of the 23d and 24th which accompanies this, I have also directed the Issuing Commissary Colo Stewart, to forward a Hundred Barrels of flour from hence without delay to New Windsor to be conveyed from thence by Colo Hay to Albany to Colo Van Schaick, as a farther supply for Fort Schuyler. I hope it will not be long before it arrives at Albany, from whence I have requested Colo Van Schaick to exert himself in concert with the Quarter Master, to have it sent to the Garrison with the greatest possible expedition. Perhaps it may be in Your Excellency's power to facilitate the transportation in some degree, and if it should I am confident it will be done. I should be happy if we could throw a hundred or more Barrels of Salt provision into the Garrison, but as I mentioned in my Letter of the 23d and 24th, I do not know from whence it is to come. I have found, however, on inquiry of Colo Stewart, that he believes from Letters in his possession, there is a quantity belonging to the public in Connecticut. He does not know the places of deposit, but imagines these can be ascertained either by Mr Nathaniel Stevens, an Assistant Issuing Commissary at Fish Kills or by Mr Peter Colt, who was in the purchasing department at Hartford. I inclose Your Excellency an Order for a Hundred Barrels, wherever it may be found, and from the Unhappy, thrice unhappy state of our finance and Quarter Master's department, must leave it with

[43] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

You to devise the means of getting it to Albany and to have it forwarded from thence to the Garrison. I confide in Your Excellency's goodness to excuse the trouble I give you on this occasion, which nothing but the cause I have mentioned should have induced me to have offered. I have the Honor etc.[44]

*To MRS. NICHOLAS HOFFMAN

Morris-Town, May 25, 1780.

Madam: It gives me sincere pain to inform you that I cannot comply with the request contained in your letter of this date.[45] In consenting to Mrs. Ogdens coming out in the first instance, the feelings of humanity, and not my powers were consulted; the latter were exceeded. I was prompted to the measure from the peculiar situation in which you were represented to be, at the time.

This I thought might justify a permission which I had refused to hundreds, but the occasion having happily ceased in your recovery I have nothing to authorize the Indulgence. It must come from the authority of the State. and if it is their pleasure to grant it at this, or any other time, I shall be happy in facilitating an interview, which you so earnestly desire, so far as it may depend on me. I have the honor etc.

[44] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. It is followed by drafts of the orders referred to, *to wit:* "One Hundred Barrels of Salt Provision (beef or Pork) are to be delivered to the Order of His Excellency Govr Clinton whenever demanded, for the use of the Garrison at Fort Schuyler, by Any Commissary or Commissaries or other public Agent of the United States having the same in the State of Connecticut." and "His Excellency Governor Clinton having received my Order on any Commissary or Commissaries or public Agent of the United States having provision in their hands in the State of Connecticut, for One Hundred Barrels of Beef or pork, to be furnished for the use of the Garrison of Fort Schuyler. I request that the several quarter Masters will exert themselves as far as possible, in forwarding the transportation of the same."

[45] Nicholas Hoffman was a Tory refugee from Morris County, N. J., in New York City, whom Mrs. Hoffman wished might be allowed to come to Baskingridge.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Thursday, May 25, 1780.

Parole Finland. Countersigns Pope, Port.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Brigadier General Stark / Major C. Stewart / Brigade Major, 2d. Penna. Brigade

The Criminals now under Sentence of death are to be executed tomorrow morning[46] Eleven o'clock near the Grand parade: Fifty men properly officered from each brigade to attend. The Camp colour men from the Pennsylvania, Connecticutt and York Lines under the direction of a Serjeant from each to dig the Graves this afternoon.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Friday, May 26, 1780.

Parole Albany. Countersigns Parker, Byles.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Brigadier General Irvine / Major Reid / Brigade Major Church

For manœuvring tomorrow Colonels Livingston and Johnston, Lieutenant Colonels Sumner[47] and Hay; Adjutants from the 2nd Pennsylvania and Hand's Brigades. Colours as usual. Brigade Major Bradford[48] to attend the Formation &ca. The

[46] These criminals were pardoned the next day (May 26) by a proclamation of the Commander in Chief. Those named in the proclamation were: Emanuel Evans, private, of the Third New Jersey Regiment; Cornelius Nix, private, of the First New Jersey Regiment; Thomas Brown, private, of the Second New Jersey Regiment; Joseph Infelt and John Earhart, privates, of the Tenth Pennsylvania Regiment; Matthew Bell, private, of the Second New York Regiment; James Hanly (Hanby), of the Fourth New York Regiment; Lancaster Lighthall, of the Third New York Regiment; Thomas Clark, corporal, of the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment; and Thomas Calvin, of the Eleventh Pennsylvania Regiment. The proclamation is in the *Washington Papers*.

[47] Lieut. Col. John Sumner, of the Fourth Connecticut Regiment. He was retired in January, 1781.

[48] Maj. William Bradford.

Battalions to be formed on the Grand Parade at Six o clock in the Morng.

Four Battalions are to manœuvre next Monday on the Common near Colonel Abeel's:[49] Manœuvring Officers Colonels Courtlandt, Ganzevoort, Jackson and Angell; Lieutenant Colonels Willet, Robinson, Mentgez and Huntington: They are to be formed on the Ground at 7 o clock precisely; Eight pieces of Artillery are to be annexed to these Battalions. The manœuvring officers of the four battalions and the one to command the artillery are to attend the Exercise tomorrow morng.

Clinton's Stark's and the Connecticut brigades each give an Adjutant for these Battalions. Colours from the 1st. Pennsylvania, Clinton's, Stark's, and the 2nd. Connecticutt Brigades.

A Trusty Corporal from Stark's Brigade and a trusty soldier from each of the other Brigades to parade tomorrow on the Grand Parade with their Packs and Blankets and from thence to be sent to Commissary Gamble's; They will remain on duty 'till their regiments move from this Ground.

The Courts martial are to adjourn over to next Tuesday and the Officers composing them to have the privelege of joining their Battalions if next for manœuvring duty.

Guards the same as this day.

AFTER ORDERS

Colonel Meigs is appointed to Command one of the manœuvring Battalions vice Colonel Johnston indisposed.

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, May 26, 1780.

Sir: I wish you to write to Providence for a return of the number of Boats there and their condition; also to direct that

[49] Col. James Abeel, Deputy Quartermaster General.

they may be put in order without loss of time. Doctor Craick who is going to that quarter will afford you an opportunity of writing. You will likewise be pleased to give the same directions respecting those in Connecticut and Delaware Rivers. I am &c.[50]

To COLONEL RETURN JONATHAN MEIGS

Head Quarters, May 26, 1780.

Sir: I am exceedingly happy to hear that matters are again reduced to a state of tranquility in the Brigade under your command.[51] I am very much obliged to you for your exertions upon the first appearance of a proceeding of so dangerous a nature and for your conduct throughout the whole of it. Mutiny as you very properly observe cannot in any case be justified; but still if the Commissaries have in any degree, by a partiality of issues given any ground of complaint, they shall be called to an account and made to answer for it.[52] I am &c.[53]

To HENRY CHAMPION

Head Quarters, May 26, 1780.

Dr Sir: We are in a situation of extremity for want of meat. The Troops on several days have been entirely destitute of any, and for a considerable time past they have been at best at half, at quarter, at an Eighth allowance of this essential Article. This distress produced a mutiny last night in the Connecticut line. I entreat Your best and every exertion to give us relief. I am etc.[54]

[50] The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.
[51] The First Connecticut Brigade.
[52] Colonel Meig's letter of May 26, 1780, describing the mutiny, is in the *Washington Papers*.
[53] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[54] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL UDNY HAY

Head Quarters, Morristown, May 26, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have requested Colo Stewart, the Issuing Commissary, to forward without delay a Hundred Barrels of flour from hence to New Windsor. This is intended as a supply for Fort Schuyler, where it is of infinite importance it should arrive as soon as possible. I request that you will use your best exertions to have it conveyed to Albany to Colo Van Schaick with the greatest expedition. I have written to him upon the subject, and hope that he and Colo Lewis in concert, will find means of getting it to the Garrison immediately after it arrives. I am etc.[55]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 26, 1780.

My dear Sir: It is with infinite pain I inform You, that we are reduced to a situation of extremity for want of meat. On several days of late the Troops have been entirely destitute of any, and for a considerable time past they have been at best, at a half, a quarter, an Eighth allowance of this essential Article of provision. The men have borne their distress with a firmness and patience never exceeded, and every possible praise is due the Officers for encouraging them to it, by precept, by exhortation, by example. But there are certain bounds, beyond which it is impossible for Human nature to go. We are arrived at these. The want of provision last night produced a mutiny in the Army of a very alarming kind. Two Regiments of the Connecticut line got under Arms and but for the timely notice and exertions of their [Officers],[56] it is most likely it

[55] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

[56] The word "Officers" was unintentionally omitted and is supplied from the draft.

would have been the case with the whole, with a determination to return home. After a long expostulation by their Officers and Some of the Pennsylvania line who had come to their assistance, they were prevailed on to go into their Huts. But this without relief can only be momentary. I will not dwell longer upon this melancholy subject, being fully convinced that Your Excellency will hasten to us every possible relief in your power. I am etc.[57]

To COLONEL EPHRAIM BLAINE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 27, 1780.

Sir: I duly received Your Letter of the 21st Inst. I have only to entreat your every possible exertion to procure and forward on all the Cattle you can with the greatest expedition. The Troops have been greatly distressed for want of supplies, which at length has been attended with some very disagreeable consequences. I am etc.[58]

To COLONEL CLEMENT BIDDLE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 27, 1780.

Dr Sir: From the opinion I entertained of your services I was sorry to hear in the first instance when the matter was communicated to me, that You were about to leave the Army and had actually resigned your Commission to the Quarter Master General. An event is soon to take place which will still encrease my concern on this head. We have every reason to expect, that an Armament composed of Land and Sea forces will soon arrive from France in these States, to cooperate with us

[57] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

[58] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison

against the Common enemy. The Department you filled is a very important one, and on a proper discharge of its duties, our abilities to move in case of Active operations, will greatly depend. I should therefore be happy if you would remain in it, as from your experience, activity and intire knowledge of our resources in the line of it I am persuaded, the public service would derive many great advantages at this interesting juncture. But I find on recurring to your Letter of the 16 Instant by which you communicated your resignation, that you are to be in Philadelphia on the call of the Honble: the Board of Treasury by the 1st of June. If you consent to remain and on which point I request your answer, I will take occasion to write by You to the Board and inform them of my wishes for your earliest return. In this event I shall consider your stay at Philadelphia as rather unlucky however short, as we have not a moment to spare in concerting our Arrangements.[59] I am etc.[60]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 27, 1780.

Gentn: I had yesterday the honor to receive Your Letter of the 22d Instant. The exertions of the Board to relieve our distresses and the good Offices of the Merchants were most timely. The Army never stood in greater need of them. On several days the Troops have been intirely destitute of provision of this kind, and at best they have only received for a considerable time past, but an Eighth, a Quarter, a Half allowance. They have borne their distress with the greatest patience, and every thing is due the Officers for encouraging them to it,

[59] Biddle answered (May 28) that in the event of a French cooperation he would willingly remain in the service as long as necessary. Biddle's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[60] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

both by exhortation and example. On Thursday night however Two Regiments mutinied, but after several expostulations and exertions by the Officers of their line and some Others who come to their assistance they returned to their Huts. Such reiterated, Such a constant series of distresses cannot but have the most pernicious consequences. I request the favor of the Board to forward the inclosed to Colo. Blaine, by which he is urged to push on every possible relief of Cattle in his power to procure. I have the Honor etc.[61]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 27, 1780.

Sir: It is with infinite pain I inform Congress, that we are reduced again to a situation of extremity for want of meat. On several days of late, the Troops have been entirely destitute of any, and for a considerable time past they have been at best, at half, a quarter, an Eighth allowance of this essential article of provision. The men have borne their distress in general with a firmness and patience never exceeded, and every commendation is due the Officers for encouraging them to it, by exhortation and example. They have suffered equally with the Men, and, their relative situations considered, rather more. But such reiterated, constant instances of want are too much for the Soldiery, and cannot but lead to alarming consequences. Accordingly Two Regiments of the Connecticut line mutinied and got under Arms on Thursday night, and but for the timely exertions of some of their Officers who got notice of it, it might have been the case with the whole, with a determination to return home, or at best to gain subsistence at the point of the bayonet. After a good deal of expostulation by their Officers and some of the Pennsylvania line who had

[61] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

come to their Assistance, after parading their Regiments upon the occasion, the Men were prevailed on to go to their Huts; but a few nevertheless turned out again with their packs, who are now confined. Colo Meigs who acted with great propriety in endeavouring to suppress the mutiny was struck by one of the Soldiers. I wish our situation was better with respect to provision in other quarters; but it is not. They are in as great distress at West point to the full, and by a Letter of the 19th from Colo Van Schaick at Albany, he informs me, that the Garrison of Fort Schuyler had then only a month's supply on hand, and that there was no more provision to send them. From this detail Congress will see how distressing our situation is; but there are other matters which still continue to render it more alarming.

By advices received from prisoners who escaped from Montreal about the last of April, and some who escaped from other parts of Canada, the Enemy were assembling a considerable force at Montreal, composed of Regulars, Tories and Savages, and making preparations of Cannon &c for an expedition against Fort Schuyler, on which they were to set out the 15th Instant. How far this may really be the case I cannot determine, but by a Letter received to day by Genl. Schuyler from His Excellency Governor Clinton, dated at Kingston the 23d, Sir John Johnston had penetrated into the Country with Five hundred Men as far as Johnstown, and seemed to be taking post. If a force is coming against Fort Schuyler, and which it is to be apprehended is the case to justify this measure, the manœuvre must be intended to prevent supplies of provision (supposing we had them) from being thrown into the Garrison. In consequence of this disagreeable intelligence, I have determined if it can possibly be done, to put the York Troops in motion for the North River and embark them for Albany, from whence they will proceed and act as circumstances will

admit and require. What they will do for provisions I know not, as we have none; and as the great exertions of the state for the support of the Army last year, and that part of it which lies at the Highland posts till the present time, added to the shortness and bad quality of their crops, with the destruction of several of their Frontier settlements, have drained the Inhabitants to the distress of their families. I am now entreated in the most pressing terms, to send on flour to supply the Troops at West Point, and from the fullest persuasion of the inability of the State of New York to do more than she has already. I was compelled two days ago to order a Hundred Barrels of flour to be forwarded from hence even for the Troops at Fort Schuyler.

Nothing is further from my wishes than to add in the smallest degree to the distresses or embarrassments of Congress upon any occasion, and more particularly on one, where I have every reason to fear they have it not in their power to administer the least relief. Duty however compels me to add one matter more to those I have already detailed. I have been informed by the Two Colonels of the Pennsylva. line in whom I have the utmost confidence, who were called to assist Colo. Meigs to suppress the mutiny on Thursday night, that in the course of their expostulations, the troops very pointedly mentioned besides their distresses for provision, their not being paid for Five months; and, what is of a still more serious and delicate nature in our present circumstances, they mentioned the great depreciation of the Money, it's being of little or no value at all, and yet if they should be paid, that it would be in this way and according to the usual amount, without an adequate allowance for the depreciation. They were reasoned with, and every argument used that these Gentlemen and Colo Meigs could devise, either to interest their pride or their

passions; they were reminded of their past good conduct; of the late assurances of Congress; of the Objects for which they were contending; but their answer was, their sufferings were too great; that they wanted present relief, and some present substantial recompence for their service. This matter I confess, tho' I have heard of no further uneasiness among the Men, has given me infinitely more concern than any thing that has ever happened, and strikes me as the most important; because We have no means at this time that I know of, for paying the Troops but in Continental money, and as it is evidently impracticable from the immense quantity it would require, to pay them in this as much as would make up the depreciation. Every possible means in my power will be directed on this and on all occasions, as they ever have been, to preserve order and promote the public service; but in such an accumulation of distresses, amidst such a variety of embarrassments which surround us on all sides, this will be found at least extremely difficult. If the Troops could only be comfortably supplied with provisions, it would be a great point, and such as would with the event we expect soon to take place, the arrival of the Armament from France to our succour, make them forget, or at least forego, many matters which make a part of their anxiety and present complaints. I have the Honor etc.

P. S. I was duly honoured with Your Excellency's dispatches of the 20th by favor of the Marquis de La Fayette and shall consider, and act upon their important contents in the best manner I can, to promote the great Objects to which they extend.

28th [May]

The Troops were served yesterday with allowance[62] of meat, by the arrival of some pork from Trentown, and Thirty Cattle

[62] The draft has "a half."

came in from Connecticut in the Evening. Sixteen were left at West Point. Some Cattle also have just reached Camp from Pennsylvania.

I inclose Your Excellency three New York Gazettes. Also a small printed paper found in our Camp,[63] containing an address to our soldiery by the Enemy to induce them to desert. It is most likely that many Copies were dispersed and that they have had a considerable effect; tho' this is the only one that has been seen by the Officers, notwithstanding their pains to find them. Your Excellency will see the points, on which the Enemy particularly found their Address.[64]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Saturday, May 27, 1780.

Parole Carlisle. Countersigns N., U.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Stewart / Major Leavensworth / Brigade Major, Clinton's Brigade

A Corporal and six men from the 1st. Pennsylvania Brigade, with two days provisions and their Arms to be sent tomorrow

[63] This printed "Address to the Soldiers of the Continental Army, 1780," is pasted to Washington's letter. Its text is as follows: "The time is at length arrived, when all the artifices, and falsehoods of the Congress and of your commanders can no longer conceal from you, the misery of your situation; you are neither Clothed, Fed, nor Paid; your numbers are wasting away by Sickness, Famine, Nakedness, and rapidly so by the period of your stipulated Services, being in general expired, this is then the moment to fly from slavery and fraud. I am happy in acquainting the old countrymen, that the affairs of Ireland are fully settled, and that Great-Britain and Ireland are firmly united, as well from interest as from affection: I need not now tell you who are born in America, that you have been cheated and abused; and you are both sensible, that in order to procure your liberty you must quit your leaders, and join your real friends who scorn to impose upon you, and who will receive you with open arms; kindly forgiving all your errors. You are told that you are surrounded by a numerous militia, this is also false—associate then together, make use of your firelocks and join the British Army, where you will be permitted to dispose of yourselves as you please."

[64] This address was read in Congress on May 31 and referred to Oliver Ellsworth, John Armstrong, and James Duane.

morning, seven o clock to General Greenes Quarters in Morristown: They will receive their orders from him.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Sunday, May 28, 1780.

Parole Dublin. Countersigns Elk, Esk.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Hubly / Major J. Moore / Brigade Major, Stark's Brigade

The Pennsylvania Division, Hand's and Stark's brigades give the Morristown Guards and fatigue this Week.

A Detachment from the Line to parade tomorrow at Guard mounting with three days provisions their blankets and 40 rounds pr man: Major Talbot will take command of them: a surgeon or mate from Stark's brigade to join the Detachment.

The manœuvring Battalions instead of parading on the Ground at 7 o'clock as mentioned in orders of the 26th. instant are to be formed in the road in the rear of the Quarter Master General's, precisely at five o'clock tomorrow morning, where they will receive blank Cartridges: Brigade Major Alexander[65] to attend the Formation: Sixteen Marechausie light dragoons with a Commission'd officer to attend at the same time and place.

Colonels Stewart and Craig are to command two of the manœuvring Battalions tomorrow vice Colonels Cortlandt and Ganzevoort[66] and Lieutenant Colonel Murray, vice Lieutenant Colonel Willet obliged to be absent.

[65] Maj. William(?) Alexander, of the Third Pennsylvania Regiment.

[66] Col. Peter Gansevoort, of the Third New York Regiment. He was thanked by Congress, Oct. 4, 1777, for the defense of Fort Schuyler; retired in January, 1781; served subsequently as brigadier general of New York Militia.

The 2nd. Pennsylvania brigade to furnish a regimental Standard, and give an Adjutant, vice Clinton's.

At a General Court martial whereof Colonel Elliott[67] was President held at Newport the 1st. Instant. Windsor Fry, Soldier in Colonel Green's regiment was tried for "Entering the Commissary's store, stealing from thence a quantity of Beef, Candles and Rum; also for breaking open two Wind Mills and Stealing a Quantity of Meal" pled Guilty.

The Court having maturely considered the heinousness of his present Crimes together with his former bad conduct are unanimously of opinion that he suffer Death.

The Commander in Chief confirms the Sentence and Orders it to be put in Execution at such time and place as Colonel Green shall think proper.

To PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED

Morris Town, May 28, 1780.

Dear Sir: I am much obliged to you for your favour of the 23. Nothing could be more necessary than the aid given by your state towards supplying us with provision. I assure you, every Idea you can form of our distresses, will fall short of the reality. There is such a combination of circumstances to exhaust the patience of the soldiery that it begins at length to be worn out and we see in every line of the army, the most serious features of mutiny and sedition. All our departments, all our operations are at a stand, and unless a system very different from that which has for a long time prevailed, be immediately adopted throughout the states our affairs must soon become desperate beyond the possibility of recovery. If you were on the spot my Dear Sir, if you could see what difficulties surround

[67] Col. Robert(?) Elliott, of the Rhode Island State artillery.

us on every side, how unable we are to administer to the most ordinary calls of the service, you would be convinced that these expressions are not too strong, and that we have every thing to dread. Indeed I have almost ceased to hope. The country in general is in such a state of insensibility and indifference to its interests, that I dare not flatter myself with any change for the better.

The Committee of Congress in their late address to the several states have given a just picture of our situation. I very much doubt its making the desired impression, and if it does not I shall consider our lethargy as incurable. The present juncture is so interesting that if it does not produce correspondent exertions, it will be a proof that motives of honor public good and even self preservation have lost their influence upon our minds. This is a decisive moment; one of the most [I will go further and say *the* most][68] important America has seen. The Court of France has made a glorious effort for our deliverance, and if we disappoint its intentions by our supineness we must become contemptible in the eyes of all mankind; nor can we after that venture to confide that our allies will persist in an attempt to establish what it will appear we want inclination or ability to assist them in.

Every view of our own circumstances ought to determine us to the most vigorous efforts; but there are considerations of another kind that should have equal weight. The combined fleets of France and Spain last year were greatly superior of those of the enemy: The enemy nevertheless sustained no material damage, and at the close of the campaign have given a very important blow to our allies. This campaign the difference between the fleets from every account I have been able to collect will be inconsiderable, indeed it is far from clear that

[68] The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

there will not be an equality. What are we to expect will be the case if there should be another campaign? In all probability the advantage will be on the side of the English and then what would become of America? We ought not to deceive ourselves. The maritime resources of Great Britain are more substantial and real than those of France and Spain united. Her commerce is more extensive than that of both her rivals; and it is an axiom that the nation which has the most extensive commerce will always have the most powerful marine. Were this argument less convincing the fact speaks for itself; her progress in the course of the last year is an incontestible proof.

It is true France in a manner created a Fleet in a very short space and this may mislead us in the judgment we form of her naval abilities. But if they bore any comparison with those of great Britain how comes it to pass, that with all the force of Spain added she has lost so much ground in so short a time, as now to have scarcely a superiority. We should consider what was done by France as a violent and unnatural effort of the government, which for want of sufficient foundation, cannot continue to operate proportionable effects.

In modern wars the longest purse must chiefly determine the event. I fear that of the enemy will be found to be so. Though the government is deeply in debt and of course poor, the nation is rich and their riches afford a fund which will not be easily exhausted. Besides, their system of public credit is such that it is capable of greater exertions than that of any other nation. Speculatists have been a long time foretelling its downfall, but we see no symptoms of the catastrophe being very near. I am persuaded it will at least last out the war, and then, in the opinion of many of the best politicians it will be a national advantage. If the war should terminate successfully the crown will have acquired such influence and power that it may

attempt any thing, and a bankruptcy will probably be made the ladder to climb to absolute authority. Administration may perhaps wish to drive matters to this issue; at any rate they will not be restrained by an apprehension of it from forcing the resources of the state. It will promote their present purposes on which their all is at stake and it may pave the way to triumph more effectually over the constitution. With this disposition I have no doubt that ample means will be found to prosecute the war with the greatest vigor.

France is in a very different position. The abilities of her present Financier have done wonders. By a wise administration of the revenues aided by advantageous loans he has avoided the necessity of additional taxes. But I am well informed, if the war continues another campaign he will be obliged to have recourse to the taxes usual in time of war which are very heavy, and which the people of France are not in a condition to endure for any duration. When this necessity commences France makes war on ruinous terms; and England from her individual wealth will find much greater facility in supplying her exigencies.

Spain derives great wealth from her mines, but not so great as is generally imagined. Of late years the profits to government is essentially diminished. Commerce and industry are the best mines of a nation; both which are wanting to her. I am told her treasury is far from being so well filled as we have flattered ourselves. She is also much divided on the propriety of the war. There is a strong party against it. The temper of the nation is too sluggish to admit of great exertions, and tho' the Courts of the two kingdoms are closely linked together, there never has been in any of their wars a perfect harmony of measures, nor has it been the case in this; which has already been no small detriment to the common cause.

I mention these things to show that the circumstances of our allies as well as our own call for peace; to obtain which we must make one great effort this campaign. The present instance of the friendship of the Court of France is attended with every circumstance that can render it important and agreeable; that can interest our gratitude or fire our emulation. If we do our duty we may even hope to make the campaign decisive on this Continent. But we must do our duty in earnest, or disgrace and ruin will attend us. I am sincere in declaring a full persuasion, that the succour will be fatal to us if our measures are not adequate to the emergency.

Now my Dear Sir, I must observe to you, that much will depend on the State of Pennsylvania. She has it in her power to contribute without comparison more to our success than any other state; in the two essential articles of flour and transportation. New York, Jersey, Pensylvania and Maryland are our flour countries: Virginia went little on this article the last crop [and her resources are call'd for to the southward]. New York by legislative coercion has already given all she could spare for the use of the army. Her inhabitants are left with scarcely a sufficiency for their own subsistence. Jersey from being so long the place of the army's residence is equally exhausted. Maryland has made great exertions; but she can still do something more. Delaware may contribute handsomely in proportion to her extent. But Pennsylvania is our chief dependence. From every information I can obtain she is at this time full of flour. I speak to you in the language of frankness and as a friend. I do not mean to make any insinuations unfavourable to the state. I am aware of the embarrassments the government labours under, from the open opposition of one party and the underhand intrigues of another. I know that with the best dispositions to promote the public service,

you have been obliged to move with circumspection. But this is a time to hazard and to take a tone of energy and decision. All parties but the disaffected will acquiesce in the necessity and give their support. The hopes and fears of the people at large may be acted upon in such a manner as to make them approve and second your views.

The matter is reduced to a point. Either Pensylvania must give us all the aid we ask of her, or we can undertake nothing. We must renounce every idea of cooperation, and must confess to our allies that we look wholly to them for our safety. This will be a state of humiliation and bitterness against which the feelings of every good American ought to revolt. Your's I am convinced will; nor have I the least doubt that you will employ all your influence to animate the Legislature and the people at large. The fate of these states hangs upon it. God grant we may be properly impressed with the consequences.

I wish the Legislature could be engaged to vest the executive with plenipotentiary powers. I should then expect every thing practicable from your abilities and zeal. This is not a time for formality or ceremony. The crisis in every point of view is extraordinary and extraordinary expedients are necessary. [I am decided in this opinion.][69]

[69] The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

"The State of Pennsylvania has it in her power to give great relief in the present crisis, and a recent act of its Legislature shews, the are determined to make the most of it. I understand they have invested the Executive with a dictatorial Authority from which nothing but the *lives* of their Citizens are exempted. I hope the good resulting from it will be such as to compensate for the risk of the precedent."—*Madison to Jefferson*, June 2, 1780. Madison's letter is in the *Madison Papers* in the Library of Congress.

Reed answered Washington's letter (June 5): "We have at length got in Motion and I hope shall be able to get a Supply of Stores for the Summer, but the Shock Paper Money has received subjects all our Resources to the Caprice of interested or perverse Individuals, more than is consistent with our Safety or Honour. . . . The Representation of the Distress for Want of Meat produced an immediate Exertion, of which I hope the Benefit must be felt by this time." Reed's letter is in the *Washington Papers*. The Pennsylvania Legislature passed an act, June 1, 1780, for procuring an immediate supply of provisions for the Continental Army in its present exigency.

I am happy to hear that you have a prospect of complying with the requisitions of Congress for specific supplies; that the spirit of the city and state seems to revive and the warmth of party decline. These are good omens of our success. Perhaps this is the proper period to unite.

I am obliged to you for the renewal of your assurances of personal regard; my sentiments for you, you are so well acquainted with as to make it unnecessary to tell you with how much esteem etc.

I felicitate you on the increase of your family. Mrs. Washington does the same and begs her particular respects and congratulations to Mrs. Reed, to which permit me to add mine.[70]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM MAXWELL

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 28, 1780.

Sir: I have recd. your favs. of the 26th and 27th. and this day the inclosed representation from a number of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood of Elizabeth Town was handed to me. Their account of the nature of the Ground which you have pitched upon for your encampment and for the Works agrees with what you mentioned in yours of the 26th and I would for that reason wish the commencement of the Works at that place suspended for the present.[71] And as I do not imagine the position which you have just taken with your Brigade is a very safe one,[72] I would recommend your removing a little back to some place which looks equally to Newark and Elizabeth town, leaving Colo. Dayton with his Regt. at the

[70] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

[71] "The Inhabitants say the ground pitched on for the Works will be very spungy when wet weather comes on."—*Maxwell to Washington,* May 26, 1780. Maxwell's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[72] One mile from Elizabethtown.

latter and sending a stronger party than before to Newark to prevent a jealousy which I find arising on acct. of the superior protection afforded to Elizabeth town.

In the mean time be pleased to keep parties busily employed in making Fascines, we shall have occasion for a great number of them.[73]

If there is a law of the state competent to the punishment of Jones[74] and the Negro, you had best turn them over at once to the Civil Authority; letting them know that if they are caught in similar practices, they will be executed without any delay.

I am informed that one Sivan who lives near Moss's Mills has lately been upon Staten Island, and that upon his return he immediately went up to Sussex County where he bought some Cattle, which he has brought down to his farm. This has so suspicious an appearance, that if the Cattle are fit for Beef, I should make no scruple of taking them and giving him a Certificate to the County Commissioner or Purchaser.

Colo. Hamilton laid some letters before me from Colo. Baylor to you, on the subject of permitting Mr. Norton and his family to come out of New York. As Colo. Baylor informs that an act of the Legislature of Virginia has passed in favr. of this Gentleman, he may be permitted to come out. You had best detain the letters which are directed to him, untill he arrives at Eliza Town. I am &c.[75]

[73] At this point in the draft the following is crossed out: "should the expected operation, in conjunction with our Ally, be carried into execution."

[74] "Jones is a young lad, of about 21 years of age, has the character of being very innofensive and rather soft before this spring; that he has gone over [to New York] 4 or 5 times in the trading way, and got bewitched after hard money; he served 9 months in the 1st Jersey Regt. the year before last, and the last summer in the Militia, all the time with a good character."—*Maxwell to Washington,* May 27, 1780. Maxwell's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[75] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Morris Town, May 28, 1780.

Dr. Sir: In consequence of the late incursion of the enemy upon the frontiers of New York, I have determined to march the Brigade of that state to its relief. It will commence its march tomorrow; and will probably arrive at Kings ferry on Wednesday evening. I wish you to have a sufficient number of boats at that place ready to receive the troops on their arrival and convey them with their baggage to Newburgh, where vessels will be prepared to carry them to Albany. Lieutenant Dodge[76] is sent forward to take charge of the boats and make some other arrangements for the progress of the Brigade. I beg you will have this business dispatched, as it is of infinite importance the troops should meet with no delay.

The brigade including officers will consist of about eleven hundred men with their baggage. This will enable you to judge of the number of boats necessary. I am etc.[77]

To SOLOMON SOUTHWICK[78]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 28, 1780.

Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 17th. You have been very truly informed as to the extremity to which this Army has been reduced for want of Meat; they are now upon half and sometimes have been upon quarter allowance. The Quantity of salt Beef in your hands would be a most seasonable supply if it could be got here, but such is the difficulty of transportation, that I fear, if it was to be removed from providence, it would be left at a variety of places upon the Road, and perhaps none

[76] Lieut. Samuel Dodge, of the Fifth New York Regiment. He was transferred to the Second New York Regiment in January, 1781, and served to the close of the war.

[77] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

[78] Deputy Commissary of Issues at Providence, R. I.

of it reach us in time to give relief. I would therefore, under present circumstances and appearances wish you to have the whole repacked, and kept in good order for removal at the shortest notice. I flatter myself we have prospects of bringing it by Water to the Army without danger. I am &c.[79]

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Morris Town, May 28, 1780.

Dear Sir: In consequence of the intelligence from Your Excellency communicated to me by General Schuyler, I have put the New York brigade under orders to march tomorrow morning for the North River. They will proceed to Kings ferry and from thence in boats to New burgh, where sloops with provisions must be ready to convey them to Albany. General Schuyler will give Your Excellency a full account of our circumstances and of the impossibility of our supplying the troops beyond New Burgh, nay even so far we must impress on the road. To his letter, I beg leave to refer you. I have the honor etc.[80]

To THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 29, 1780.

Gentlemen: This will be delivered to you by Capt. Van Dyck[81] formerly of New York. This Gentleman was a Captain in the five months service of that State in the year 1776 and

[79] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[80] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton, who wrote this day also (May 28) to General Knox: "The General requests you to furnish two Grasshoppers and a company of Artillery to be attached to the New York Brigade which marches tomorrow morning toward Albany." Copy was kindly furnished by R. D. Graeme, of Richmond, Va., of the original in his possession in 1935.

[81] Capt. Abraham C. Van Dyke, of Lasher's New York Militia regiment. He was taken prisoner at Fort Washington, N. Y., in November, 1776, and exchanged in May, 1778.

was made a prisoner in evacuating the City the same Year. He was treated by the enemy with uncommon rigor during the whole time of a long captivity, owing, as is supposed, ot the influence of those persons who remained voluntarily in the Town, and to whom he was particularly obnoxious on account of his fixed opposition to their measures from the commencement of the dispute. The little property he was possessed of fell into the hands of the Enemy, and as no provision has been made for him, either in the Army or the State, he has been reduced to a condition truly distressing. From a knowledge of his character and his circumstances, I have long wished for an opportunity of recommending him to some employment in which he might be of service to his Country, at the same time that he procured a subsistence for himself and family. One seems now to offer. Capt Van Dyck having been an Officer of Marines, in the last War, is desirous of trying his fortune in that way now. I will therefore take the liberty to recommend him to a Captaincy in that line, from a conviction that no man, considering his abilities, has made greater sacrifices for the cause, or is more deserving of Public notice. Should no such place be at present vacant, he would in the mean time enter on Board one of the Frigates in any other station which would not be deemed incompatible with his former Rank and services. In committing him to the patronage of the Board I am convinced I give him the best chance of meeting with some compensation for the hardships, and losses which he has experienced on account of his steady adherence to the cause of his Country.[82] I have the honor, etc.[83]

[82] The Board answered (July 11), inclosing a commission of captain of continental marines foi Van Dyke, and informing him that he had been ordered to the frigate *Saratoga*. (See Washington's letter to the Board of Admiralty, July 18, 1780, *post*.)

[83] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade. This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 37, fol. 423.

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 29, 1780.

Sir: The intercourse between the inhabitants of the States and the Citizens of New York, by means of the Flag Boats which pass from the latter to Elizabeth Town, has become so very frequent that it excites suspicions and jealousies in the minds of many of the well affected among us, and puts it much in the power of the Enemy to gain intelligence, and to propagate injurious reports, thro' the channel of persons who come over, under the pretence of meeting their friends upon business merely, of a private nature. To put a stop, as far as possible, to this growing evil, you will be pleased to comply strictly with the following instructions. The Flag Boats to be ordered to come to, at a convenient distance from Elizabeth Town point, an Officer to go immediately on Board, who is to transmit all letters, and papers to the Commanding Officer at Elizabeth Town and make report to him of the passengers. The Officer to remain constantly on board till the Flag is discharged [wch. should be as soon as possible]

No person or persons to be allowed to come on shore from the Flag Boat, except prisoners of War whose exchanges or paroles have been regularly negotiated by the respective Commissaries, or those of any other description having permissions in writing from Congress, the Board of War, The Legislative or Executive authorities of the States, or the Commander in Chief, [nor is the flag to be suffered to remain till this can be obtained.]

No person or persons to be allowed on any pretence whatever to pass to New York or Staten Island or to go on Board any Flag Boat upon its arrival, except prisoners of War under

the circumstances before mentioned, or those having permissions in writing from the several powers before recited.

The foregoing rules of conduct if punctually obeyed, will effectually put a stop to all improper personal intercourse under cover of Flags; but there is another of a nature no less pernicious, to check which is one of the principal motives of your being stationed at Elizabeth Town; it is the traffic carried on privately with New York. You are, I imagine, well acquainted with the channels through which this commerce generally passes, I need therefore only recommend to you in the strongest manner to make use of every measure to break it off totally.

It behooves us just now, more than ever, to keep the Enemy entirely ignorant of our movements or designs. It will be impossible to do either while an intercourse almost uninterrupted prevails. This I hope will be a further incentive to your exerting yourself to render the communication less frequent.

Nothing in the foregoing is meant to extend to persons whom you may find it expedient to send over or to admit for particular purposes. I am &c.[84]

To THE BOARD OF TREASURY

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 29, 1780.

Gentn: You will have heard before this I am persuaded, that an armament composed of Land and Sea forces, is soon expected to arrive on the Continent from France, for the purpose of cooperating with us against the Common Enemy. Every exertion will be necessary on our part for the occasion, and the aid of every experienced and active Officer. In this view, and

[84] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

as the Forage department is a most important one, on the proper arrangements and execution of the duties of which, our movements will essentially depend; It is my wish that we should have the services of Colo Biddle this Campaign. I have communicated the matter to him and he has consented to continue to act, tho' he had resigned; but he informed me he was obliged to be at Philadelphia in consequence of some arrangements in your Office, for the purpose of adjusting his accounts, a point which he was very desirous of effecting. It appears to me his services will be so essential with the Army, that it would be better to defer this business for the present, unless it can be accomplished in a few days, which I should suppose, from the great extent and variety of his transactions cannot be the case. If I am right in my conjectures, and the Board do not see that very superior advantages would arise to the public from his detention, I wish his earliest return. Time is most precious with us, and, circumstanced as we are, we have not a moment to spare in providing for the Object I have mentioned. I have the Honor etc.[85]

To COLONEL CLEMENT BIDDLE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 29, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I have received Your Letter of the 28th. The Honourable the Committee in a Circular Letter they have written to the States, have pressed them in the strongest terms to furnish the supplies required of them by Congress by their Act of the 25th. of February, and the places for depositing the forage as well as other Articles, which had been agreed on, had been communicated to them before, by Letters from Myself. If the States You mention are written to on the subject of

[85] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

monthly specific supplies, according to the Estimates which have just been made, the necessity of providing it and the means of transportation on the request of the Quarter Master Genl. or Com Genl will be urged again.

It appears to me that Trenton will be a proper place for collecting a large quantity of forage at, from the parts you mention. I am etc.[86]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Monday, May 29, 1780.

Parole Mexico. Countersigns Mars, W.

Of the Day Tomorrow	Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Sherman
	Major Chapman[87]
	Brigade Major, 1st. Connecticut brigade

Colonel Meigs is appointed President of the General Court Martial vice Colonel Ganzevoort and Lieutenant Colonel Sumner vice Lieutenant Colonel Willet; a Captain from Hand's Brigade and a Sub from the 2d. Pennsylvania vice a Captain and Sub from Clinton's.

The Court martial whereof Colonel Meigs is President to assemble at Lieutenant Colonel Willet's Hut

General Orders will be issued at Colonel Cortlandt's.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, May 30, 1780.

Sir: I informed You yesterday morning, that I had received certain advices that a body of the Enemy from Canada,

[86] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

[87] Maj. Albert Chapman, of the Fifth Connecticut Regiment. He retired in January. 1781.

computed at about Five Hundred under Sir John Johnson had penetrated into the State of New York, by way of the Mohawk river, as far as Johns Town, and seemed as if they were about to take post there; and that there were other accounts received through prisoners who had escaped from Canada, that a larger force than this was assembling at Montreal about the last of April, intended as it was said, to make an expedition against Fort Schuyler. How far this last information is true is a matter we cannot ascertain; but it is of infinite importance that the communication with that post should be opened, and a quantity of provision thrown into the Garrison as early as possible for the support of the Troops. At present it is cut off, or at least it was when I received my advices, by the position the Enemy had taken at Johns Town.

You will therefore proceed with your Brigade, which is already in motion, with all the expedition You can, consistent with the health of the Men, to King's ferry by the best and most direct route, where you will embark the Troops in Boats directed to be prepared for the purpose and go to New Windsor. At this place it is expected that there will be sloops provided by the State, according to a requisition which has been made, for transporting the Troops to Albany, where they cannot arrive too soon. After You arrive at Albany, your future conduct must be governed by your own discretion, the information you receive with respect to the Enemy above, and the exigency of the service; but You are to remember however, that it is of the greatest importance to open the communication with the Garrison at Fort Schuyler and to throw into their relief a quantity of provision both flour and Salt meat, and this You will endeavour to effect by every practicable means. I wish if possible that it may be supplied at least with a Hundred Barrels of flour and with the same quantity of Salt meat. A Greater quantity of both will be still better, if it can be

procured. You will correspond and advise with His Excellency Governor Clinton upon the occasion, and with respect to all the measures it may be necessary for You to pursue, whom I expect you will meet, either at Kingston or Albany. You will also inform me from time to time of your proceedings, and of every occurrence you may deem material.

With respect to provision for your Troops, I do not know how you will procure it. Their supplies will depend entirely upon your occasional arrangements and the aid of the State. You will look forward to these and of course endeavour to do the best You can to obtain them. I wish you on your march even to the North River, to take every reasonable precaution to prevent your being intercepted by the Enemy, who may possibly attempt it, by sending a Detachment from New York; and in case you move from Albany, either against the Enemy, should they remain, or to cover the provisions which may be sent to Fort Schuyler, you will use every possible means, or the Detachment which may be sent for the purpose, to guard against a surprize or being cut off.

You will take every pains to prevent desertions, and will always have your Troops in readiness to rejoin the Army on the shortest notice.

From the situation of the 5th Regiment lately commanded by Colo. Debois[88] with respect to Field Officers, Lt Colo Willet will take the command of it, till further Orders. I am etc.[89]

[M. L.]

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, May 30, 1780.

Sir: I am directed by His Excy. to request that you will be pleased, on the arrival of the Marquis's baggage at Fishkill to

[88] Col. Lewis Dubois (Debois), of the Fifth New York Regiment.
[89] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

furnish Monsr. Captain[90] who has the charge of it, with a guard. As a letter will be lodged with Col Hay for this Gentn. directing him to come on with the baggage and the Villains between this and the North River have commenced their robberies, it may not be safe to send less than a Commissioned Officer and Twenty men with it. I am &c.

P. S. I take the liberty to inclose the letter for Col Hay and beg that it may be forwarded to him the first opportunity.[91]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Tuesday, May 30, 1780.

Parole Fortune. Countersigns Fame, France.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Livingston / Major Trescott / Brigade Major, 2nd. Connecticut brigade

For manœuvring Tomorrow morning 6 oclock, Lieutenant Colonels Commandant Butler and Hubly; Majors Torrey and Stewart;[92] Brigade Major, 1st. Connecticut Brigade to attend the formation of the Battalions; Hand's and Stark's Brigades give the Adjutants; Colours from the 2nd. Connecticut and Stark's.

The Commander in Chief is pleased to Order a release of all prisoners now under Confinement except prisoners of War and those of the Connecticutt Brigade who were confined for Mutiny; Obrian late Provost Marshal to return to his duty in the Regiment from whence he was taken.

At a General Court martial of the Line whereof Colonel Ganzevoort is President May 20th. Mr. Alexander Church superintendant of Colinental horses was tried.

[90] Pierre Capitaine. He was major and aide to Lafayette.
[91] The draft is in the writing of and is signed "R. K. Meade A. D. C."
[92] Maj. John Stewart, of the Second Maryland Regiment.

1st. For supporting at public Expence 6 horses or more which he claimed as private property.

2dly. For appropriating to his own use a Waggon and four horses which he claimed as his own and for receiving public hire for the same, and public Forage for the Horses.

3dly. For permitting two men employed under him to purchase poor horses in the Continental Yard and fatten them on public Forage.

4thly. For taking a horse out of the Continental Yard at his own estimation or price of Thirty three dollars which was worth one Thousand and for feeding him on public Forage.

The Court are of opinion that the Charges are not supported and do therefore fully acquit Mr. Church.

The Commander in Chief approves the opinion of the Court.

Mr. Church is released from his Arrest.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown,
Wednesday, May 31, 1780.

Parole Norwalk. Countersigns X., M.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Johnson
Major Parr
Brigade Major, 1st. Penna Brigade

*To JOSEPH JONES[93]

Morris-Town, May 31, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have been honored with your favor in answer to my letter respecting the appointment of a Comee.; and with two others of later date. the last containing Genl. Woodfords acct. of the situation of things at Charles Town at the time of

[93] Delegate to the Continental Congress from Virginia.

his writing. I thank you for them all. Unhappily that place (Chs. Town), the garrison in it, &ca. (As appears by the New York account which I have transmitted to Congress) have been in the enemys hands since the 12th. Instt.

Certain I am that unless Congress speaks in a more decisive tone; unless they are vested with powers by the several States competent to the great purposes of War, or assume them as matter of right; and they, and the states respectively, act with more energy than they hitherto have done, that our Cause is lost. We can no longer drudge on in the old way. By ill-timing the adoption of measures, by delays in the execution of them, or by unwarrantable jealousies, we incur enormous expences, and derive no benefit from them. One state will comply with a requisition of Congress, another neglects to do it. a third executes it by halves, and all differ either in the manner, the matter, or so much in point of time, that we are always working up hill, and ever shall be (while such a system as the present one, or rather want of one prevails) unable to apply our strength or resources to any advantage.

This my dear Sir is plain language to a member of Congress; but it is the language of truth and friendship. It is the result of long thinking, close application, and strict observation. I see one head gradually changing into thirteen. I see one Army branching into thirteen; and instead of looking up to Congress as the supreme controuling power of the united States, are considering themselves as dependent on their respective States. In a word, I see the powers of Congress declining too fast for the consequence and respect which is due to them as the grand representative body of America, and am fearful of the consequences of it.

Till your letter of the 23d. came to hand I thought General Weedon had actually resigned his Commission; but be this as

it may, I see no possibility of giving him any command out of the line of his own State. He certainly knows that every state that has Troops enough to form a Brigade claims, and has exercised, uniformly, the previledge of having them commanded by a Brigr. of its own, nor is it in my power to depart from this system without convulsing the Army; which at all times is hurtful, and may be ruinous at this. I am, etc.[94]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 31, 1780.

Sir: I am sorry that I am under the necessity of transmitting the inclosed Gazette extraordinary to your Excellency, by which it appears that Charles town surrendered to the Enemy on the 12th: Instant., You probably will, by the time this reaches you, have received a confirmation of this unfortunate event, directly from Carolina. I have the honor etc.[95]

[94] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

Jones replied, in an undated letter, which is filed in the *Washington Papers* at the end of June, 1780: "Congress have been gradually surrendering or throwing upon the several States the exercise of powers, which they should have claimed and to their utmost have exercised themselves, untill at length they have scarce a power left but such as concerns foreign transactions, for as to the Army the Congress is at present little more than the Medium through which the wants of the Army are conveyed to the States. This Body never had or at least in few instances have exercised, powers adequate to the purposes of war. And such as they had have been from embarrasment and difficulties frittered away to the States and it will be found I fear very difficult to recover them. A Resolution was passed the other day desiring the States to inform us what they had done upon certain requisitions for some time past that we might know upon what we had to rely on. This may probably serve as a Basis for assuming powers should the answers afford an opening; other resolutions are now before us by one of them the States are desired to give express powers to call forth Men provisions money for carrying on the war for the common defence; others go to the assumption of them immediately; the first I have no doubt will pass this Body but will I expect sleep with the States, the others I believe will dye where they are; for so cautious are some of offending the States in this respect a Gentleman the other day plainly told us, upon a proposition to order some armed vessels to search the vessels going out to prevent the exportation of Flour, that, if an Embargo was laid in the Delaware as in this State he consented to the measure, otherwise he never would agree to such exercise of power."

[95] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 31, 1780.

Sir: Colo Sherburne I expect will have the honor of presenting this Letter to your Excellency. This Gentleman entered into the Army at the beginning of the War and from that time to this has served his Country, as a brave and good Officer. His conduct in attempting to relieve the Post at the Cedars in 1776 was distinguished, and will be recollected by Congress. In the beginning of 1777 from the opinion I entertained of his merit, I appointed him under the powers with which I had been honoured, to the command of One of the 16 Additional Regiments in which he has acted to the present time with credit and reputation. It has been found necessary among other arrangements to reduce this Regiment and incorporate the Men in others, from its very weak state and from there being no prospect that it would be ever recruited. From this circumstance Colo Sherburne is now without any command in the Army. I have been informed that he has some business to transact with Congress and have thought it but justice to his services and merit to give him this testimonial. I have the Honor etc.[96]

To THE COMMITTEE OF COOPERATION

Morris Town, May 31, 1780.

Gentlemen: In the expected cooperation it is of great moment that we should proceed with circumspection and on the surest ground. Before we can determine what ought to be undertaken, we should be able to appreciate the means we shall have it in our power to employ on some precise scale. To begin an enterprise against New York for instance on a general

[96] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

presumption of sufficient resources in the Country and proportionable exertions in the respective governments to bring them forth would hardly be justified by success, could never be defended in case of misfortune, to say nothing of the fatal consequences that might ensue. It appears to me necessary to ascertain the number of men and the quantity of supplies which the states are capable of furnishing in a given time, and to obtain assurances from them founded on experience of their continuing supplies in the same proportion.

I esteem the plan adopted by the Committee in their circular letter[97] an extremely good preparatory one; but I think it of indispensable importance in the next place to come to some thing fixed and determinate. I therefore take the liberty to submit to The Committee the necessity and propriety of calling immediately upon the states for specific aids of men provision forage and the means of transportation.

To enable them to judge of the number of men we shall want, the following observations may be of use.

Our arrangements should be made on the principle of the greatest enterprise we can undertake and against the whole force of the enemy united; that is an enterprise against New York with the troops acting to the Southward added to its present Garrison.

The enemy's force at New York on this supposition cannot be estimated lower than fifteen thousand regular troops, besides refugees and militia which are said to amount to four or five thousand; but let the whole be estimated at 17,500.

Double this number is the least we can ask to operate against it; that is 35000 effective men besides two small corps one at West Point the other in the Jerseys for covering our communications and attacking Powles Hook if the enemy retain

[97] Of June 2, 1780, to the States.

possession of that post. In Europe to besiege troops in fortified places, the proportion of men necessary is computed at six to one in favour of the besiegers. We cannot ask less than two to one against New York, allowing us the command of the water which will be a material advantage.

The Corps of French troops will probably not exceed on their arrival five thousand effective men; the residue of 30000 must be furnished by us together with about fifteen hundred for the two detachments abovementioned.

To have this effective force our total at the lowest calculation cannot be less than 40.000 rank and file.

The batalions in this quarter completed by drafts as recommended by the Committee in their circular letter will amount to 22680; the balance of 17320 must consist of Militia.

These must be furnished by the States from New Hampshire to Maryland inclusive according to the proximity and ability of each. It is proposed that they be assembled at appointed places of rendezvous by the last of June; to serve for three, at least two Months after joining the army.

I have had estimates formed, which are inclosed for the consideration of the Committee, of the quantity of provisions requisite for the supply of an army of 40,000 men for a month; of forage for the same period, and of horses and waggons for the campaign attached to the army. other estimates are annexed apportioning these to the States from New Hampshire to Virginia inclusive, having regard to the resources of each and their relative position to the probable scene of our operations.[98]

My Idea is to call upon those states to furnish their quotas by the last of June, and to give explicit information how far it will be in their power to keep up the supplies in the same proportion to the last of November.

[98] See Washington's Circular Letter to the States, June 2, 1780, *post*.

This brings the business to a point. The states must either give us what we want in the time required, or manifest their inability to do it, and we can take our measures accordingly. Particular commonly make a livelier impression than general ideas. If we only urge the states to adopt a plan for bringing forth all its resources; they may proceed on some vague notion of the extent of our wants and satisfy themselves with arrangements which tho' ample enough to be plausible may yet fall far short of the object. If we make a demand of definite aids, they will have a fixed point to regulate themselves by and their measures will be equal to it, if they are in a condition to command the means. In my opinion requisitions of this nature will at once serve to guide and stimulate. At any rate their operations will inform us what we have to expect and what we ought to do.

I have one doubt of the expediency of immediately calling for the Militia, which is that it may possibly operate to the prejudice of the proposed draft for the Continental batalions. But there is in all probability so little space between this and the execution of our projects that we seem to have not a moment to lose. I am clear in the expediency of asking specific supplies.

It appears to me essential that there should be a perfect understanding on all hands; that the states should know our wants; what is expected by us; that we should know their abilities; what we may expect from them. I should not fear to discourage by alarming them with the largeness of our demands; if it could be supposed they would not bear the knowledge of our wants, we could not flatter ourselves they would supply them. But their wisdom and patriotism will certainly do every thing their resources will permit.

If the Committee should desire a conference on these subjects, I shall do myself the honor to attend them whenever [and wherever] they please. With perfect respect etc.[99]

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 31, 1780.

Dear Sir: Although I am convinced, from your late frequent representations and my own knowledge, of the distress in which your department is involved for want of money, and consequently of your inability to make almost any new provision of the many articles necessary for the operations of this Campaign, yet there are some matters which may be put in a state of readiness through the means of the Artificers whom we have in service, aided by the materials on hand. Of these are our Carriages; old Camp Equipage and Boats. To the latter I would wish you to pay a particular attention, directing

[99] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

In the *Washington Papers* is a paper in the writing of Washington and indorsed by him: "State of Matters as laid before the Comee. of conference at Morris Town May 1780." The text follows: ". . . . Offensive operations, on our part, are doubtless expected. We should in the first place then settle the number of Men requisite for the greatest enterprize we can undertake, and against the whole force the enemy can bring together. That is an enterprize against New York with the Troops acting to the Southward added to its present garrison. . . . Operations of the present magnitude ought not to be undertaken but on good grounds, especially as another power will be involved in the consequences.

"We should see Magazines formed before they commence, at least, we should be upon a certainty that they can be formed in time

"It is therefore proposed that Specific quantities of supplies be demanded of the States from New Hampshire to Virginia inclusive, to be at deposits determined on by the last of June, sufficient to subsist the force already mentioned together with the Corps of Artillery, Horse, and Staff of the Army and followers of it for at least two Months, and that the States be required to give explicit information whether they can comply with these requisitions and keep up Supplies in the same proportion to the last of November.

"Magazines of grain for forage ought also to be formed on the same principles.

"Estimates are directed to be made for this purpose."

The omitted portions are incorporated almost verbatim in the foregoing letter (May 31) to the Committee of Cooperation.

them to be completely provided with Oars, Boat Hooks and setting Poles.

We shall probably have occasion for the materials necessary for laying Bridges of Boats, as Cables, Anchors, Plank and Scantlin. Should it not be in your power to engage these Articles, it may not be amiss to be enquiring where they may be most readily procured, that you may, in case you should either be furnished with the means of purchase by the treasury or by the authority of the States, know where to apply for them without loss of time. This mode may perhaps be extended, with advantage, to many other Articles in your line; for should the States comply with the specific demands made upon them by the Committee of Congress, they will in all likelyhood be obliged to seek for assistance and information from the Heads of the several departments.

There is a matter which I would wish you seemingly to turn your attention to, with a view of distracting the enemy by an appearance of making preparations for an embarkation of troops; to this end, be pleased to give your deputies in Philada., Boston, and other considerable ports, directions to enquire what quantity of shipping can be procured and upon what terms. This they may do in an open manner, and as the owners will naturally want to know the destination they may hint at Penobscot, Hallifax or New foundland.

Inclosed you have an estimate of sundry Articles in the Artillery and Engineering line which will be wanted in the execution of the intended cooperation. Should it not be in your power, circumstanced as you are, to procure or make Contracts for the Timber, you had best deliver in an estimate to the Committee with the whole quantity apportioned on the States of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, which from their convenience of Water Carriage can easily send it to the places

where it will be wanted. I think you have the greater part of the tools already provided. The Sand Bags are very essential and must be procured in considerable quantities if possible. I am &c.[1]

To COLONEL CHRISTOPHER GREENE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 31, 1780.

Sir: I recd. your favr. of the 9th: Inst. inclosing the proceedings of a Court Martial upon Fry of your Regt. I have approved the sentence, and inclosed you have a Warrant for his Execution. I think it more than probable that your Regiment will be in a little time drawn to the main Body of the Army, should it not, means must be fallen upon to provide you pay and other necessaries upon the spot. I am etc.[2]

To COLONEL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 31, 1780.

Sir: I recd. your favr. of the 28th: That of yesterday reached me late last Night. I most sincerely wish that your suspicions of the truth of Rivingtons publication[3] may prove well grounded, but I confess it bears too many marks of authenticity. Should you receive any further confirmation of your opinion be pleased to let me have it.

It was always my intention that your own Regiment should remain with you at Elizabeth Town, and I mentioned it to

[1] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. Following the draft is an estimate, in the writing of Alexander Hamilton, of "Articles wanted in General Greenes department towards the intended cooperation, in the Artillery and Engineering line."

Among the miscellany filed at the end of May, 1780, is a folio page in the writing of Washington of the "Militia to be retained in Service, and mode of relief, as agreed on by Genl. Herd and the Field officers. Jersey."

[2] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[3] Of the surrender of Charleston, S. C.

Genl. Maxwell. A compleat Corps is more to be depended upon than one composed of detachments. I am &c.

P. S. You should without loss of time be making your arrangements for defence, in case the Enemy should make an attempt upon you. A strong stone House was mentioned by Mr. Caldwell, which might be put in a situation to receive you if attacked, and which might be defended untill a support could be brought up.[4]

To PRESIDENT JEREMIAH POWELL

Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 31, 1780.

Sir: I had the Honor three days ago to receive your Letter of the Instant,[5] covering a Resolve of your Honourable Assembly for annexing Colo Jackson's[6] Regiment to the line of the State, and an Act for preventing and punishing desertion &c. I shall take an early occasion, agreeable to the desire of the Assembly to arrange and number this Regiment.

I have the honor to inclose the Draft of a Proclamation[7] founded in the spirit of the Act with respect to Deserters; Copies of which you will be pleased to have printed and dispersed through the State, if you think it proper. This Act in its design, appears well calculated to answer the Objects of

[4] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

[5] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

[6] Col. Henry Jackson.

[7] This draft of a proclamation dated May 31, in the *Washington Papers*, is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. It provides that deserters from the Massachusetts regiments who would "join their respective Regiments and Companies, or where they had not been incorporated, surrender themselves to any Officer of their State, present with the Army," within the time and on the terms of the act of the Legislature of Massachusetts, of May 5, 1780, which provided that the deserters should give themselves up within 3 months after the publication of the act; and in case of seamen, within one month after they return to port. The recruits enlisted or were detached from the militia or levies and deserted before or after they joined the Army, were included. The Massachusetts Legislature, on May 5, 1780, passed an act for punishing deserters and for apprehending deserters from the Continental Army. A broadside copy of this is among the broadsides of the Library of Congress.

it, and if well executed will have very salutary consequences. There is nothing more injurious to the public and nothing more practised than engaging Deserters on board privateers and Other Armed Vessels and our exertions cannot be too great to prevent it. I have the Honor etc.[8]

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 1, 1780.

Dr. Sir: We have received advice from New York, published by authority, of the surrender of Charles Town. As I dare say you will have seen the hand bill and as I am pressed for time, I shall not go into particulars.

A person from Amboy reports that he saw the day before yesterday One hundred sail of vessels enter Sandy Hook. This if true can be nothing else than Sir Henry Clinton returned with the whole or part of his force. There is every reason to believe that encouraged by his success to the Southward and by the distresses of the garrison he may resolve upon an immediate attempt upon West Point. You ought to be prepared for it by collecting your force and redoubling your vigilance especially towards the water.

We shall immediately impress a number of waggons to forward you a considerable supply of flour from this place. I have also written to The Governor of Connecticut to interpose the authority of government for forwarding with all possible dispatch a quantity of salted meat from Connecticut, and for keeping up supplies of fresh.

To give you, however a temporary aid, I would have you immediately collect principally in the Counties towards the enemy a number of cattle in the manner least distressing to the inhabitants. This will enable you to spare your salted

[8] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

provision. You can have the cattle in your neighbourhood. With the greatest regard etc.[9]

To JEREMIAH WADSWORTH

Morris Town, June 1, 1780.

My dear Sir: I send you the Copy of a letter to your Governor by which you will see my apprehensions for West point. You know the importance of that post: You know how to partake in our feelings. See the Governor, and give your influence to the Aid we request. I am etc.

P. S. You will keep the communication of the Governors letter out of sight.[10]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 1, 1780.

Dear Sir: We have just received a hand Bill from New York, published by Authority, containing an account of the surrender of Charles town the 12th: instant, said to have come by the Iris, which left that place the 17th: The particulars are not given; some leading matters are mentioned, but they are probably either false, or exaggerated. There are circumstances of suspicion attending this account, but as it is announced by authority, I cannot suppose it to be a forgery, but believe the general fact of a surrender to be true. The conditions may be more, or less advantageous.

Advice is just come to me from Amboy, that the day before yesterday one hundred sail of Vessels entered Sandy Hook. This if true, and there is no reason to doubt it, can be nothing

[9] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

[10] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

else, than Sir Henry Clinton returned from the Southward with the whole or a part of his Army. Flushed with his success there, and tempted by the present posture of our Affairs, it will be extraordinary if he does not immediaately aim a Blow at West point. If he does, we have every thing to apprehend, from the total want of provision in the Garrison, which has been for some time on half allowance.

This is too serious a danger not to demand instant exertions to obviate it. We can send nothing but Flour from this quarter. I am informed there are between two and three thousand Barrels of salted Meat in Connecticut, but the Quarter Master for want of money can do nothing towards its transportation. We must in this exigency look to the State and request the interposition of its authority to furnish Waggons without a moments loss of time. Mr. Hubbard the Qr. Mr. at Harford will receive the Waggons and forward the provision.

We shall endeavour to forward Flour from hence, but we must in like manner have recourse to the Aid of Government or impress by military power. I know your Excellency's wisdom and Zeal too well not to be convinced you will give the matter the speediest and most effectual attention.

Indeed my Dear Sir our Affairs are hastening rapidly to a Crisis. The States must determine whether they will be free by a vigorous exertion of all their resources or submit to the domination of Great Britain. My anxiety to hear in what manner they will take up the several important matters recommended to them in the late circular letter of the Committee of Congress exceeds description. I have the honor etc.

P. S. It will be necessary still to forward supplies of live Cattle to preserve the stock of Salt Meat, which ought to be kept if possible for a deposit in case of a Seige. This too will require Your Excellency's aid.

It is essential towards the proposed cooperation that we should prepare a large number of Fascines and Gabions, and the most convenient places will be on Connecticut River and adjacent to the sound, particularly on Connecticut River. I entreat your Excellency to give pointed orders to the Militia to carry on this Business with industry and dispatch. The Officers of Militia will take their directions from Maj. Murnan of the Corps of Engineers who is now in Connecticut for this purpose. This is an object of real importance.[11]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Thursday, June 1, 1780.

Parole Luxemburgh. Countersigns Lyme, Lynn.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Jackson / Major Clift / Brigade Major Van Laer

A trusty Serjeant, Corporal and nine men from Stark's brigade with their Arms blankets and three days provisions to be sent to the Adjutant General's quarters 8 o clock tomorrow morning to guard some Prisoners of War to Philadelphia.

At a General Court martial of the Line whereof Colonel Gansevoort was President May 25th. Lieutenant Hunt[12] of the 4th. New York regiment was tried charged with "Marching the old Main Guard of the 11th. of May last, to camp in a disorderly manner and permitting the men to straggle contrary to the ordinance of the Army."

The Court on mature Consideration of the charge and the Evidence are of opinion that Lieutenant Hunt is Guilty of

[11] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

[12] Lieut. Thomas Hunt. He retired in January, 1781, and served subsequently as captain of New York levies.

the Charge against him being in breach of that part of the 3d. Article of the 22d. Chapter of the regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops which respects marching an old Guard to Camp and do sentence Lieutenant Hunt to be reprimanded in General orders.

The Conduct of Lieutenant Hunt was highly unmilitary and blameable. Too frequent instances occur of similar irregularities and they are at all times inexcuseable.

Lieutenant Hunt is released from his Arrest.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Friday, June 2, 1780.

Parole Ontario. Countersigns P., K.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel Angell / Major Edwards[13] / Brigade Major, Hand's Brigade

For manœuvring Colonel Livingston, Lieutenant Colonel Sherman, Majors Reid and Leavensworth; Adjutants and Colours from the 1st. Pennsylvania and Connecticut brigades.

The manœuvring Battalions to parade near the Halfmoon tavern at 6 o clock tomorrow morning. Brigade Major of the 2nd. Connecticut brigade to attend the formation.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 2, 1780.

Dear Sir: It is expected that the fleet of our Ally will in the first instance touch at Rhode Island for the purpose of landing their sick and supernumerary Stores and to meet the intelligence necessary to direct their operations. I have already sent

[13] Maj. Evan Edwards, of the Eleventh Pennsylvania Regiment.

forward Doctor Craik to take up proper Houses for Hospitals and to make some previous arrangements in that department: But as I apprehend the French General and Admiral will upon their arrival want the advice and assistance of a person of discretion and judgment and acquainted with the Country, I must request you to repair immediately to providence, and upon their arrival present yourself to them, letting them know that they may command your services. I would wish you to endeavour, in conjunction with the Governor, to establish a market between the Fleet and Army and Country, and be careful that our Allies are not imposed upon in the prices of Articles which they may find necessary. This is a point recommended in the plan drawn up by the Ministry of France, and which policy and generosity directs should be strictly attended to. I am &c.[14] [MS. H. S.]

CIRCULAR TO THE STATES[15]

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 2, 1780.

Sir: By the Letter from the Honble. the Committee of Congress at Morris Town, which goes with these dispatches, You will find, that these Gentlemen and Myself, after maturely considering the matter, deem it essential to the success of the measures in contemplation to be carried on against the Enemy, to call on the States for certain Aids of militia, in addition to the requisitions for Men already made; and that they should be at places of Rendezvous appointed by me, by the 15th day of next month. The Aid requested in this instance of your State,

[14] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. The draft, which is also in the writing of Tilghman, has the following, which is not in the letter sent: "You will by the next opportunity receive a letter from the Marquis de la Fayette introducing you to Lieut. Genl. Count de Rochambeau and Admiral Ternay."

[15] From New Hampshire to Maryland.

is founded on a principle of apportionment common to all the States, from New Hampshire to Maryland inclusive (the Others on account of their distance and the operations in the Southern quarter not being now called on) and is stated at 945 rank and file. This number *well Armed,* and equipped in every other respect for the Field in the best manner circumstances will admit, under proper Officers, I wish to be certainly at Claverac, on Hudson's River at the time mentioned by the Committee, which appears to me a suitable place for their rendezvousing at in the first instance, and from whence they will proceed on my Orders, as occasion may require. It will also be material, on account of disciplining and organising the Men, as well as on account of public œconomy, that they should be formed into full Regiments. If this is not done, it will render our Arrangements extremely difficult and irregular, and will add, by greatly encreasing the number of Officers, very considerably to the public expence. I would beg leave to observe, that I think the whole number of Militia requested from your State, should be comprised in Two Regiments about the same size, which would make them nearly equal to the establishment fixed for those of the Continental line. This additional aid, will not I trust and earnestly entreat, impede in the smallest degree, the filling up the Regiments of the State by Drafts to their full complement, as requested by the Honble the Committee in their Letter of the 25th Ulto. This is a point of such great importance, so absolutely essential to give the least prospect of success to our operations, and indeed on which they depend, that I could not forbear mentioning it. If the Regiments are compleated by Drafts, it is possible our demands for Militia may be a good deal diminished; but this must be governed by events and therefore, for Objects so very interesting, so

important as those to which we at present look, we should provide whatever may be possibly requisite. I have the Honor etc.[16]

[N.H.H.S.]

To BARON VON KNYPHAUSEN

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 2, 1780.

Sir: I beg leave to acquaint Your Excellency, that Congress have been pleased to empower me, by a late Resolution, to authorize an Agent or Commissary of prisoners to be appointed on your part, to reside in these States, with powers similar to those which may be granted to, and permitted to be exercised by a like Officer appointed by us to reside within your lines. As this is a business very interesting to humanity, and peculiarly so to the prisoners in our respective possessions, it is with great pleasure I make the communication; and it will rest entirely with You, to place the matter on the most liberal footing. Your Excellency has only to inform me, that such an Agent will be allowed on our part to reside with You, and of the powers he will be permitted to exercise, and you will be at liberty to appoint one to reside with us, at any place except Philadelphia, with the same priveledges.

I know that difficulties have attended the overtures which have been made heretofore, to effect this Humane purpose, but

[16] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. The draft, which is also in the writing of Harrison, has the following list of quotas at the end, the figures and places, of course, varying in the circulars to the different States:

				Rendezvous.
To New Hampshire.	quota 945	to form 2	Regts.	Claverack.
Massachusetts	4725	9		do
Rhode Island	630	1		Providence.
Connecticut	2520	5		Danbury.
New York	1575	3		Fishkill.
Jersey	945	2		Morris Town.
Pennsylvania	3465	7		Easton & Trenton.
Delaware	315	1		Wilmington.
Maryland	2205	4		Head of Elk.

I trust they will no longer exist, as the proposition is founded in equality and must be mutually interesting to both parties.

If the proposition I make is agreed to, and on which I request Your Excellency will favour me with an early answer, Mr. Lewis Pintard will immediately return to New York as our Agent: If it is not, Your Excellency will be pleased to permit Mrs Pintard and the rest of Mr. Pintard's family to come out, as he does not incline to return unless it is in a public character.

Should Mr. Pintard be allowed to return as our Agent, it is proposed that he shall take with him several setts of Bills of Exchange, with a view of negociating them for the benefit of Our Officers, who are prisoners. I should hope that this measure will not be objected to, as it is usual in like cases; and as the indulgence has been permitted by us. I shall be obliged by your Excellency's Answer also on this subject. I have the Honor etc.[17]

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 3, 1780.

Dr Sir: Under our present expectations of the daily arrival of the Fleet and Army from France at Rhode Island and of operations that may be consequent, it is of great importance that the means of conveying intelligence between Providence and Head Qrs. should be placed on the most certain and expeditious footing. I therefore request, that You will without the least delay have a proper number of trusty, diligent Expresses established on the communication between these Two places at suitable Stages. You will from what was done in a like case on a former occasion readily know the best route and the Stages. The same considerations make it necessary that we

[17] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

should be in the best and earliest state we can to move the Army as circumstances may require; I therefore wish you to have all the Horses belonging to it which are or will probably be fit for service in a short time, collected in pastures within the vicinity of Camp as soon as it can be done. We may have immediate occasion for them, and if by any means this should not be the case, they may be recruiting here from the State of the Grass, as well as any other place. I am etc.[18]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Saturday, June 3, 1780.

Parole Pultowa. Countersigns Perth, Pool.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Brigadier General Huntington / Lieutenant Colonel Hait[19] / Brigade Major, Stark's Brigade

Brigade Returns (regimentally digested) of all the Espontoons actually wanting in the several regiments to be made tomorrow at Orderly Time.

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 3, 1780.

Dear Sir: The Flour began to move from hence last night and will be sent on as quick as the Waggons come in. There will be five or six hundred Barrels. You will be pleased to have Boats immediately sent down to Kings ferry to receive it upon its arrival there.

The account of the Fleet mentioned in mine of the 1st. instant seems to have been premature. The Officer stationed at

[18] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

[19] Lieut. Col. Joseph Hait, of the Eighth Connecticut Regiment. He retired in January, 1781.

Elizabeth town has made inquiry into the matter and can hear nothing of them.

You will receive herewith some Commissions for the Massachusetts line. Be pleased to deliver them to the Officers to whom they belong. I am etc.[20]

To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 4, 1780.

Sir: As the opening of the campaign is fast approaching, and it is time to form a general disposition of the Army with a view to it, it is essential I should know, as soon as possible, what General Officers will be present. For this purpose, I am to request you will inform me, without delay, whether the situation of your private affairs will permit you to take the field this campaign or not, and if you do take the field, when we may hope to see you at Camp. I am etc.[21] [N.Y.H.S.]

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 4, 1780.

Sir: I recd. your favr. of the 26th. ulto. with the monthly returns inclosed. You have a letter to Mr. Bull,[22] who will deliver the Cloathing you ask for your Regt., upon it. I imagine Major Tallmadge had some directions from the Board of War relative to procuring the Cloathing you mention for the Officers, and I therefore do not look upon myself at liberty to give any orders about the disposal of it, or to fix any price upon the delivery of it.

[20] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[21] In the writing of Caleb Gibbs.

[22] James Bull, deputy clothier at Springfield, N. J. The letter inclosed to Sheldon was a brief note dated June 4, ordering Bull to deliver to Sheldon "as many suits as will amount to three hundred for the use of his Regt." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

General Howe will call for as many Horse as are equiped and fit for service, to move towards the lines. They are much wanted there, and there will be plenty of Green forage by the time they can get down. I am &c.[23]

To MAJOR JEREMIAH TALBOT

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 4, 1780.

Sir: There is at this time a considerable convoy of provision going on to King's ferry and there will in all probability be stores of some kind constantly on the Road. In your present position the communication about Kakeate is left too much exposed, you will therefore advance a part of your detachment up to that place, and indeed keep the whole as a kind of patrol between Paramus and Kakeate. By pursuing this method that whole flank will be secured and your party in less danger than they are when laying constantly in one place. [This is become more necessary from an information I have just received from New York of the enemys having some enterprize in contemplation, and the party at Peramas supposed to be the object.] You will not neglect to keep, as usual, small patrols down towards the enemy, to prevent their coming unexpectedly upon your Rear. I am &c.[24]

To CAPTAIN MOSES ASHLEY

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 4, 1780.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 31st. ulto.[25] You have mistaken the meaning of the Act of Congress; it is not to

[23] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[24] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

[25] This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

prevent promotions where they are due, but to put a stop to new appointments except they are thought necessary by the Commander in Chief. You will therefore be pleased to apply in the usual mode to the State for the vacant Majority to which you say you are intitled. I am &c.[26]

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 4, 1780.

Sir: You will be pleased to give directions to the Commy. of prisoners at Lancaster to permit Docr. Paush[27] Surgeon of Genl. Knyphausens Regt. and Ensign Hamilton[28] of the 17th. British, to go into New York upon parole. The former to return when demanded; the latter to remain in New York three Weeks. They are to go by the way of Easton to Elizabeth town, avoiding the Main Body and other posts of the Army.

At the instance of the Board of War, a son of Colo. Conolly's is to be permitted to go into New York for his education. It seems the young Gentleman is an Ensign in the 17th. British Regt. and you will therefore direct the Commy. at Philada. to take a parole from him as such. I lately received a letter from a Mr. Frazier[29] at Rutland, a Chaplain to the 71 Regt. As it was mutually agreed at the last meeting of the Commissioners to release all Gentlemen of his Cloth, you will be pleased to take the first opportunity of giving the necessary orders, to that effect. I am etc.[26]

[26] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

[27] Wilhelm Pausch. He was a surgeon in Knyphausen's regiment, German allied troops.

[28] Ensign Henry Hamilton. He was an adjutant in the Seventeenth Foot, British Army.

[29] Hugh Frazier. He was deputy chaplain of the Seventy-first Foot, British Army.

To MAJOR GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 4, 1780.

Dear Sir: Inclosed you have the draught of a proclamation addressed to the inhabitants of Canada. You will be pleased to put this into the hands of a printer whose secrecy and discretion may be depended on and desire him to strike off a proof sheet with the utmost dispatch, which you will sent to me for correction.[30] We shall want at least 500 Copies. The importance of this Business will sufficiently impress you with the necessity of transacting it with every possible degree of caution. The printer is to be particularly charged not on any account to reserve a Copy himself or suffer one to get abroad.[31] With great Regard Etc.[32]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Sunday, June 4, 1780.

Parole Newcastle. Countersigns Kent, Man.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Brigadier General Stark / Lieutenant Colonel Hay / Brigade Major, 1st. Connecticut brigade

[30]At this point the draft has the following crossed out: "The Chevalier de la Luzerne will furnish you with a number of Blanks headed with the Arms of the King of France, on which it is proposed to print the proclamation if the paper will admit. Should it not, the printer must procure some of a proper size and good quality."

[31]A translation of the proclamation was forwarded by Sir Henry Clinton to Lord George Germain in his despatch of Aug. 31, 1780. A copy of it is in the *British Transcripts*, C. O. 5, vol. 100, fol. 243, Library of Congress.

Arnold's reply (June 7) is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Among other things, he said: "I have therefore sealed up the Original draught, [of the proclamation] with a proof Sheet similar to the One Inclosed, which I have left with Mrs. Arnold, to be delivered to your Excellency's Order."

In *Sir Henry Clinton's Papers*, in the William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Mich., is a memorandum of Mrs. Arnold being paid, after the discovery of Arnold's treason, £350 for services.

[32]The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

The Connecticut Line to be Inspected tomorrow by the Inspector General.

The Inspection to begin at 6 o clock in the Morning.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Monday, June 5, 1780.

Parole Pekin. Countersigns D., Thorn.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Brigadier General Irvine; Lieutenant Colonel Sill; Brigade Major, 2nd. Connecticut brigade

For manœuvring Colonels Johnston and Humpton; Majors Chapman and Trescott; Colours from the 1st. and 2nd. Pennsylvania brigades; the 2nd. Pennsylvania and Hand's give the Adjutants.

The Brigade Major of the 2nd. Pennsylvania brigade to attend the Formation of the Battalions which are to be paraded at the usual place tomorrow morning 6 o'clock.

The 2nd. Pennsylvania Hand's and Stark's Brigades and the Connecticut Line to give the Morristown Guards and Fatigue the ensuing Week.

Six camp colour men from Hand's Brigade under the care of a Corporal to be sent to Morristown tomorrow morning 7 o clock: Mr. Shute[33] A, D, Q, M, G. will give them directions.

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 5, 1780.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 31st. ulto. by Captn Webb[34] inclosing the Copy of one from Governor Trumbull.

[33] John Shute. He was Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General.

[34] Capt. John Webb, of the Second Continental Dragoons. He was aide to Generals Howe and Greene in 1781–82, and resigned in April, 1783.

You will be pleased to direct Colo. Sheldon to order out all the Horse that are equiped and fit for service and make such a disposition of them as you think will best answer the purpose of curbing the enemy's incursions. I have written to Colo. Sheldon on the subject.

I had previous to the receipt of your letter written to Governor Trumbull and requested that the Militia in service upon the sound might be employed in cutting Fascines; a much greater number of them than of Gabions will be wanted, and you will therefore pursue your resolution of applying what small force you can spare, principally to fascine making.

The requisition for ammunition for the Militia should, in point of regularity, come thro' the Governor, while they are acting separately from the Continental Army. When they join, they will be supplied of course as other troops.

I have written to Capt. Ashley[35] and pointed out to him, the proper mode of obtaining his Rank. I am &c.[36]

To JAMES DUANE

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 5, 1780.

Dear Sir: I had the pleasure to receive your [favr] of the 21st: May in due time. You must be good enough to attribute my not answering it sooner to the real cause; a hurry of other business. I had been twice before applied to for my opinion on the propriety of promoting Capt. McLean. The last was thro' the Board of War, to whom I stated my objections fully on the 9th: April. I need not enter into a recapitulation of them at present, they in general were, that the principles on which Capt. McLean grounded his claim were not well

[35] Capt. Moses Ashley. (See Washington's letter of June 4, *ante*.)

[36] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The date was first written as June 4 and afterwards altered to June 5.

founded, as there were many Officers in the line of the Army still remaining in the Rank of Captains who were elder than him; that the Corps, both Horse and Foot, was commanded by Major Lee, as Major Commandant, and that there was no real occasion for a Major to command the Infantry. I will, in confidence, give you a further reason for waving this matter. A compliance with it would instantly lead to an application to promote Capt. Peyton of the Horse in the same Corps to a Majority. Peyton was a very young Officer in Blands, and such a measure would create great disgust, not only to the Officers of Blands, but of the other Corps of Horse, who are already extremely jealous of the superior advantages and priviledges which Major Lee has some [how] or other obtained.

I [now am,] as I [always have] been ready to acknowledge, a high opinion of Capt. McLean's merit, but I cannot give my assent to a measure which I plainly foresee would involve disagreeable consequences, for the reasons I have before mentioned.

[Your favours of the 26th. and 30th. ulto. are also before me, and deserve my particular thanks. We are in a strange dilemma respecting Charles Town. The York Gazette extray. of the 29th. Ulto. published by authority, gives an acct. of its surrender; subsequent papers give us the particulars, and yet the fact is doubted. This Nights post will certainly remove suspence if it does not give Mr. Rivington the lye. We seem to be almost as much at a loss with respect to the Naval transactions in the West Indies. We are told that more than one engagement has happened between the French and British Squadrons in those Seas and can learn the particulars of neither, but hope fortune has decided in favour of the first from the currt. of information.

The Letters of your Comee. and my public ones to Congress, will give you a full acct. of our proceedings at this place; it is

unnecessary therefore to touch upon them in a private letter.

Mrs. Washington and the Gentn. of my Family join me in a tender of best wishes and an assurance of sincere regard etc.][37]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 5, 1780.

Gentlemen: I have been successively honored with your favors of the 19th, 24th, 25th, 26th, and 30th. ulto. with the several enclosures to which they refer.

I am at a loss to know the meaning of the Board in transmitting the representation of the inhabitants of Northumberland in favr. of Colo. Weltner. It appears by Govr. Reeds letter that there has been one complaining of his Conduct. The one seems a counterpoise to the other.

I had really forgot the application of Genl. St. Clair in favr. of Doctor Pausch, but I immediately gave directions to the Commissary General of prisoners to send him in upon parole, with Ensign Hamilton and Colo. Connolly's son.

I have written to Genl. Knyphaussen and ask'd permission to negociate the Bills, put into Mr. Pintards hands, in New York. I do not conceive that he will refuse, as we indulge them in a similar priviledge.

I have confirmed the sentence of the Court Martial against Capt. Lieut. Godfrey,[38] and shall direct the Adjt. Genl. to transmit you an extract from Genl. Orders.[39] I would beg leave to suspend my determination upon Capt. Coren's, until I hear again from the Board. It appears by the proceedings that the Court have recommended reinstating him. Had this been his

[37] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The portions in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

[38] Capt.-Lieut. William Egerton Godfrey, of Flower's Artillery Artificers. He retired Aug. 30, 1780.

[39] See General Orders, June 24, 1780, *post*.

first offence, there might not perhaps have been much difficulty in the matter, but nothing but the most urgent occasion for his services can justify the measure, as he has been once before cashier'd. I have been informed that he is extremely useful in the Elaboratory, and I would therefore leave it with the Board and Colo. Flowers to say whether he can be dismissed without materially injuring and impeding our preparations at this time. If he can, I am clearly of opinion, that his sentence does not, on any other ground admit of mitigation.

You will be pleased to forward the inclosed to Genl. Gates by a safe opportunity.

I received the Commissions for the Artillery and for the Massachusetts line and have delivered them to the Corps to which they belong. I have the honor etc.[40]

*To CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Morris Town, June 5, 1780.

Sir: My time has been so entirely engrossed in the preliminary arrangements of immediate necessity towards the intended co-operation, that I have not been able till now, to do myself the honor to thank your Excellency for your letter of the 21st. of May. We have too many proofs of the generous zeal of your Countrymen in the cause of America, not to be convinced of it; and to feel *all* that the most grateful sensibility can inspire.

I am happy in believing, that the Troops and citizens of these states will eagerly embrace every oppertunity to manifest their affection to the Troops and citizens of your Nation, as well as their gratitude and veneration to a Prince from whom they have received the most important benefits. Penetrated with a sense of these, I shall think it my duty to cultivate corrispondent sentiments as far as my influence extends.

[40] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

The Marquis has given me an acct. of all your Excellency had done for the advancement of the combined operation's. It will no doubt contribute essentially to their success, and gives you a claim to the acknowledgements of the two Countries.

I am too sensible of the value of the permission you give me to solicit your aid in every thing, in which you can continue to afford us your good offices, not to make use of it as frequently as possible. I begin by entreating you to favour me with your advice with the greatest freedom on whatever occurs to you, interesting to our affairs at this period. I have the honor etc.[41]

To JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Morristown, June 6, 1780.

[See Washington's letter of July 6, 1780.]

To THE COUNCIL OF WAR[42]

Morris Town, June 6, 1780.

The Commander in chief States to the Council, that The Court of France had generously determined, and had signified their intention, to send a considerable land and naval succour to this Continent, which was to have sailed from France early

[41] From a photostat of the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

[42] The Council consisted, besides the Commander in Chief, of Major Generals Greene, Stirling, Lafayette, and Steuben, and Brigadier Generals Knox, Hand, Huntington, Stark, and Irvine. These officers submitted their opinions at various dates during the month of July, except Stark, whose opinion is dated June 26. McDougall and Wayne, though not present at the Council, submitted opinions, which are found in the *Washington Papers,* and Washington himself summarized these opinions in a 7-page autograph document, which is filed in the *Washington Papers,* at the end of June, 1780, headed "Summary of the opinion of the General Officers upon the propriety of attacking New York in the Campaign of 1780," and indorsed by him: "Summary of the Opinions of the Genl. Officers on a State of mattrs. June 1780." In addition to their opinion as to the queries in the Council of War, Greene on July 13 and St. Clair on July 12 submitted opinions on the proper place from which to commence operations. These opinions are in the *Washington Papers.*

in April. That the extent of this succour, when the advices came away, had not been precisely fixed, but it was to consist of six sail of the line and from seven to ten thousand troops, completely provided with all the apparatus necessary for such an army, to be paid and maintained here in all respects by his Most Christian Majesty, to be entirely under the influence of American Councils, to be directed to any point where the interest or safety of the states may require, attended with every other circumstance, that can display the magnanimity of our great ally and evince his sincere disposition to establish our independence.

That in consequence of this, Congress and a Committee appointed by them for this purpose, have addressed the several states; the latter in circular letter of the 25th. of May; giving them a full and just picture of our present situation, and representing, in the strongest terms, the absolute necessity of every possible exertion to draw out the resources of the Country in their utmost extent, in men, provision, transportation, and every other article, requisite to the success of the combined operations. That among other things, the states are particularly called upon, to complete their Continental batalions by draft to their complement, of 504 rank and file; the drafts to be with the army, by the 20th. of June, and to serve 'till the first of January next. This including the additionals will make the Continental troops in this Qr. amt. to 24,000 rank and file.

That no answers have yet been received from the States to enable a judgment of the means they will employ upon this occasion, and the aids which we may look for in consequence.

The Commander in Chief, further states to the Council, that the enemy's present garrison in New York and its dependencies is at least 8000 effective rank and file regular troops, besides Militia and refugees, whom the enemy estimate at four or five thousand.

That the troops which sailed on the expedition under Sir Henry Clinton with the reinforcement that has followed him amounted to between Eight and Nine thousand.

That the troops remaining at Savannah previous to this were about Two thousand five hundred.

That the force of the enemy in Canada from the best accounts that have been collected may be about three thousand, of which about one half are in Quebec; the residue at Montreal and the lower posts.

That the Garrison of Halifax is computed at about Two thousand five hundred.

That the Garrison of St. Augustine may be about five or six hundred, a part of which are invalids; that the Spaniards have been for some time operating in the Floridas, and if successful will in all probability extend their efforts to this post.

That the enemy's naval force at New York was lately The Russel of seventy four and three or four frigates. That three ships of the line, One fifty two forty fours and some smaller frigates and armed vessels convoyed the detachment under Sir Henry Clinton to the Southward; but it is uncertain whether the ships of the line all still remain there, as none but the Europa of sixty four guns has been heard of for some time past.

That our present force in this Quarter including the Garrison of West Point and the detachment which lately marched towards the Northward is above Eight thousand effective rank and file, exclusive of horse and artillery.

That the Continental infantry in South Carolina by the last advices, on the best calculation which can be formed (not very accurate, for want of recent returns) was about two thousand five hundred; besides which the Maryland division of about Two thousand are on their march to that state; that there are also on their march about Six hundred Virginia State troops.

Under this general view of our affairs and those of the enemy; combining the different probabilities of the enemy's dispositions and considering the present situation of our finances and the resources of the Country in general, The Commander in Chief requests the opinion of the Council, in what manner we are likely best to improve the benevolent aid of His Most Christian Majesty; what we have reason to believe we shall be able to undertake; to what point or points our preparations and views ought to be principally directed; what force will be requisite for the plan or plans to be adopted; whether against New York, Halifax, Canada or Augustine; what ought to be our immediate disposition, and our general plan of operations in either case.

The Commander in Chief, in considering these points, recommends to the Council to take into view the present posture and probable issue of the operations against Charles Town; in doing which they will recollect that there is every reason to believe that the enemy here are fully apprised of the expected succour. He omitted mentioning that the enemy have a fortified post containing about four hundred men at Penobscot. The Members of the Council will be pleased as speedily as convenient to deliver their opinions separately in writing to The Commander in Chief.[43]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Morristown, Tuesday, June 6, 1780.

Parole Sussex. Countersigns Holt, F.

Of the Day Tomorrow { Colonel R. Butler
Major Torrey
Brigade Major, 1 Pennsylvania brigade

[43] In the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

A Subaltern from Hands brigade to relieve the Subaltern from Clinton's now superintending the Hospital at Pluckemin. He will receive his Instructions from the Officer he relieves.

Six Camp colour men from Starks brigade under the care of a Corporal to be sent to Commissary Kean's[44] early tomorrow morning.

GENERAL ORDERS

Morning Orders, Wednesday, June 7, 1780,
"4 o clock"

The Troops to be held in readiness to march at a moment's warning; Each man to be furnish'd with 40 rounds and two days provisions.

"7 o clock A M"

The Army will march immediately[45] in the following order: 2nd. Connecticut; 1st. Connecticut; Stark's; Hands; 2nd Pennsylvania and 1st. Pennsylvania.

The Brigade Commissaries are to follow on with provisions.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Shorthills, Wednesday, June 7, 1780.

Parole Resolution. Countersigns Look, Sharp.

Watchword Tomorrow.

For the present the Army is to be formed in the following order.

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[44] John Kean. He was Assistant Commissary of Issues.

[45] "I am directed by Colo: Dayton to inform your excellency that the enemy landed this night at 12 oClock."—*Capt. Jona. Dayton to Washington,* "past 1 oClock Wednesday Morn." Dayton's letter is in the *Washington Papers.* Dayton reported the strength of the British as four or five thousand, with 12 field pieces. It developed that there were six regiments and four 6-pounder cannon. Incessant skirmishing ensued and Major Gibbs, of the Guard, reported to Washington "that among the Wounded is Mr. Ford of Morristown *where hd. Ours. is kept* he was in the Advance, a Volunteer with Lt. Colfax which gave the Enemy the first Charge; he received two balls thro his thigh." Gibbs's letter, dated June 8, 1780, is in the *Washington Papers.*

The first line composed of the Pennsylvania division on the right commanded by Major General Greene.

The Connecticut division on the left commanded by Major General the Marquis La Fayette.

The 2nd. line composed of Hand's and Stark's Brigades commanded by Major General Baron de Steuben.

The Jersey Brigade forms the Advance Corps till further orders.

Captain Webb is to serve with General Greene as an Aid de Camp untill the Enemy's return into New York and is to be obeyed and respected accordingly.

AFTER ORDERS

Two regiments of the second line to be posted on the road between Camp and Newark mountain.

The troops to lie on their Arms and the Officers with their respective regiments and platoons, that in Case of an alarm every officer and man may be immediately at his Post.

To MAJOR JEREMIAH TALBOT OR OFFICER COMMANDING AT PARAMUS

Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 7, 1780,
½ after 8 A. M.

Sir: I have this morning been informed that the Enemy landed last night in force at De Harts Point near Elizabeth Town, and are advancing rapidly on the road to Springfield. I wish You to communicate this intelligence to the Militia Officers in the vicinity of your post immediately that they may alarm the Country and that you will march as expeditiously as you can consistent with the Men's health with the detachment under your command and with all the Militia that will join You, for *Chatham;* keeping the Mountains below you on

your left. You will send on some of the Militia Light Horse, or Messengers from time to time to Chatham in order to inform yourself of the advance and situation of the Enemy and also to advise me how far you are on your march. I am &c.[46]

To LORD STIRLING

June 7, 1780.

My Lord: The enemy landed at DeHarts Point last night in considerable force, and are advancing rapidly this way.

They may aim at our Camp or they may only intend to proceed as far as the mountains and file off to the left making a sweep of all the forage Cattel &c. in their way.

In any case we ought to collect the Militia to give them all the opposition in our power. I request your Lordship to give the alarm as extensively as you can in your quarter and to remain to form them as they collect and march them towards the enemy with direction to skirmish on their left flank. We shall as quick as possible move forward with the Army.

I wish your Lordship's particular attention to the Militia. I am etc.

The enemy were on the road from E Town to Springfield. We shall move towards Chatham.[47]

To THE BOARD OF WAR

Heights above Springfield, June 8, 1780,
5 O'Clock A. M.

Gentn: If Major Lee's Corps is still at Philadelphia or within its vicinity, or has not advanced more than three or four days march towards the Southward, I request that you will order it

[46] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.
[47] The text is from the *Magazine of American History*, vol. 3, pt. 2, p. 499.

to join this Army as soon as it can be done. His Horse in particular is infinitely wanted at this time. I inclose a Letter for him on this subject. The Enemy are out in force in Jersey and lie just below Springfield. They have a considerable body of Horse which we want Horse to counteract, and we want them besides for the purpose of reconnoitring &c.[48]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Connecticut Farms,
Thursday, June 8, 1780.

MORNING ORDERS

Major Generals Greene, La Fayette and Steuben's divisions each give a battalion to form a detachment which is to be commanded by Brigadier General Hand.

Greene's gives	120	Files
La Fayette's	80	
Steuben's	100	

The men's ammunition to be carefully inspected immediately. One or two officers from each division to be sent to Camp this day to bring on all stragglers small guards &ca. to join their respective regiments.

Parole Pensacola. Countersigns Mobile, Spain.

Watchword Galvez.

A Field Officer from each division to post and visit the Guards of the Divisions respectively.

The officers from General St. Clairs division to visit also the Guards posted from the Jersey Brigade.

The Army to keep its present position 'till further orders; the officers to keep with their regiments and platoons and their men compact as possible.

[48] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

General St. Clair having joined is to resume the Command of his own division; General Greene will take command of the Front Line.

To LORD STIRLING

June 8, 1780.

My Lord: I am just making a detachment of three batalions under General Hand, which are to be employed to-day as actively as the situation of the enemy will permit in conjunction with the Militia. While the enemy remain in their present position, Maxwell's brigade will preserve the post it held last evening, reposing to-day and acting as a covering party. I shall send it a field piece for this purpose. The troops and militia, near the enemy must act chiefly in the woods, as this mode will not only be best to harass the enemy, but will be best adapted to security, especially against horse of which the enemy are said to have a considerable body.

I wish your Lordship to have the Militia put into some form and endeavor to ascertain their number. After this, you will permit them to act in their own way, having places of rendezvous to assemble occasionally, and receive orders.[49]

To LORD STIRLING

June 8, 1780, *Sun set*

My Lord: I am now at the Connecticut farms meeting House, where the Head of our Column is advanced. The Troops are halted and will ly on their Arms tonight to act as occasion may require. If the Enemy begin to cross over to Staten Island and you are *well and clearly* ascertained of the fact and circumstances indicate that they mean to continue passing, the Troops on your informing me of it or such part

[49] The text is from a letter in private hands. It was sold in 1892.

as may be deemed necessary for the purpose, will be put in motion; but as I have already observed, I wish the matter to be taken with respect to the Enemy's passing to be well understood and not to be taken up on light grounds, as our moving otherwise might lead to very serious consequence.

And while I am speaking about the Enemy's crossing, I think it necessary to request your Lordship's equal attention that they may not move against us without the earliest advice, which is an Object they may have still in view and which they may notwithstanding appearance to cross endeavour to carry into execution. It will be essential that good Centries and patroles should be kept on your left for this purpose, and some Horsemen and trusty persons should also be kept at Halsted's point least they should after embarking making a landing there or at some place in its vicinity and advance from thence.

I shall be found at a House where the Roads fork on this side Springfield.

It will be best to withdraw the Troops which are advanced, a little in the rear of the Town where they will be secure, as you and General Schuyler proposed. I have the Honor etc.

The House I stay at is Mr. Whitehead's[50] [N.Y.H.S.]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Springfield, Friday, June 9, 1780.

Parole Monmouth. Countersigns B., K.

Watchword Attention.

A Field Return to be made immediately of the officers and men on the ground "Fit for Action" by Brigades regimentally digested.

[50] Timothy(?) Whitehead. In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

A return of the number of shoes actually wanted by the men present; also of Canteens.

The men to cook two days provisions immediately and to draw two days more so as to be completed with four days provisions this day inclusive.

The Ammunition to be inspected very critically and all deficiencies made up.

Major General Lord Stirling is to take the command of the second line and Major General Baron Steuben to take the command of the Troops in advance consisting of General Maxwell's brigade, Major Gibbs's detachment and such of the Militia as are at present advanced.

The detachment under command of Major Talbot lately returned from Peramus are to join their respective Corps.

Colonel Hazen's regiment to take Post at the fork of the road on the left of Cammell's.[51]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL NATHANIEL HEARD

Head Quarters, June 9, 1780.

Sir: If the Enemy mean to make a movement into the Country to Morris Town, it is likely they will attempt it to night, and if they do, they may endeavour to proceed by a Road either more to our right or left, than any one on which we have Troops. From this consideration and the importance of having every avenue guarded by which they may attempt to gain our Rear. I shall be exceedingly glad, if you can procure and send Three or Four very trusty Horsemen on whom you can depend, on each of the Roads under the above description to patrol the night and who will give the earliest communication of the advance of the Enemy. The Road which leads thro the

[51] Archibald(?) Campbell. He was an innkeeper.

Mountain by the way of the Scot's plains, I wish to be particularly attended to. Should you not be perfectly informed of the Roads on which we have Troops, Baron Steuben will inform you.[52] I am etc.[53]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Springfield, June 10, 1780.

Sir: I beg leave to inform Your Excellency, that on Tuesday night the Enemy landed at Elizabeth Town point, with the principal part of their force, under the command of General Knyphausen, and proceeded the next morning into the Country till they were within half a mile of Springfield. In their march they were most spiritedly opposed by the Jersey Troops which formed the advanced Corps of the Army, and by such of the Militia as had an opportunity from their situation and the suddenness of the occasion to collect. The moment I received advice that the Enemy were out in force, I put the Army in motion and it reached the heights in the rear of Springfield on Wednesday afternoon. A pretty warm skirmishing was kept up thro' the day between the Enemy and the light parties on our side, in which there is reason to believe the Enemy were a good deal galled. We have received intelligence, which seems to be authentic, that Brigadier General Stirling was wounded in the thigh shortly after the debarkation. In the night they retired to Elizabeth Town point where they have remained ever since, having burnt in the course of the day, according to their common mode of warfare, a Meeting House and several Dwelling Houses and Barns. Their movements

[52] At this point in the draft the following is crossed off: "You will be pleased to let me know the reason for firing a Cannon just now."

[53] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

are a little mysterious; the design of them not easily penetrated. We can only form conjectures with respect to it.

The Militia have turned out with remarkable spirit and have hitherto done themselves great honor. I cannot precisely ascertain the loss we have sustained upon this occasion, but it is inconsiderable. II have the Honor etc.[54]

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, Heights above Springfield,
June 10, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I have received your several letters of the 5th 6th and 8th: of June. You do well to consider the post of West Point as the capital object of your attention and every other as secondary. This is peculiarly necessary at the present moment, as there are circumstances that authorise a suspicion of something being intended against that post. I would therefore have you by all means to keep your force collected in such manner as that there may not be a possibility of your being found in a divided state, in case of a sudden movement of the enemy your way.

General Knyphaussen (we have reason to believe) with all the force he could spare from New York made an incursion into the Jerseys the night of the 6th instant and proceeded early next morning towards Connecticut farms about five miles from Elizabeth Town. In the night of the 7th. he retired to the point of his debarkation beyond Elizabeth Town where he has remained ever since, and has been crossing and recrossing his cavalry and baggage. His whole conduct is inexplicable and begins to have much the air of an amusement. 'Tis probable Clinton with the whole or a part of the troops under his command is momently expected at New York and the present

[54] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

movement may be intended to draw our attention this way, while he on his arrival pushes immediately up the North River and attacks the Forts united with what Troops still remain in New York.

The day Knyphaussen moved out he was very severely galled by an advanced corps of Continental troops and the Jersey militia who have turned out and acted with admirable spirit upon the occasion.[55]

We conjectured at first that his coming out was to forage or to draw us down into the plain and give us battle. But as he did not pursue the first and as he must have seen that we shall not fight him but upon our own terms, we cannot see why he should remain in his present position so long; we are therefore led to the other conjecture respecting you. Use all possible vigilance and caution.

It is not improbable Clinton's brigade may shortly reinforce you.

The enemy have a good many cavalry and we have none here. You will dispatch immediately Moylan's Regiment to join us. Sheldon's will continue with you. His infantry on an emergency may be thrown into the garrison.

You ask my opinion about giving due bills for deficient rations. It would be but justice if our circumstances permitted it; but they do not. We can neither afford provision nor have we money to pay for deficiencies. No such allowance has been made to the troops here.

You will order Col Hay to detain the ship Carpenters in his employ even if the business now in hand should be finished, for we shall have essential need of their services hereafter.

[55] A hasty note (June 10) from Washington to Lieut. Col. Nathaniel Scudder ordered Scudder to march his regiment to the Army by way of Scotch Plains. This draft is in the *Washington Papers.*

With respect to the mode of purchasing horses as proposed by Col Hay, I can only say that the necessity of the case must justify the measure, but, that I wish you to procure such a number only as may be absolutely necessary. I am &c.[56]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, Heights above Springfield,
June 10, 1780.

Dear Sir: From the accounts which I have received from the northward, I am in hopes there will be no occasion for your advancing beyond Albany. I put this letter under cover to the Lieut. Governor, with a desire to forward it to you, in case the information he may have received of the retreat of the Enemy will justify your recall. In such case, you will return with the utmost expedition to West Point and put yourself under the command of Genl Howe or Genl Heath should he have arrived from Boston. From the present apprehensions of the designs of the Enemy, you will be pleased to use every exertion to reach West Point, should it be determined by the Legislature that you may come down the river. I am &c.[57] [M.L.]

ANSWERS TO DE CORNY

Springfield, June 10, 1780.

General Washington has the honor to give the following answers to the Questions proposed by Mr. De Corny.

1. It is essential in the proposed cooperation, that large magazines should be formed on the North River and with a view to this it has been suggested that the waggons provided by Mr.

[56] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton, the last paragraph being in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

[57] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

Mitchel may be usefully employed in conveying provisions from Pensylvania to New Windsor on the North River; to receive orders for their future destination there. This plan is still recommended if it be attended with no inconvenience as it will forward the combined operations. Such as can be so employed may therefore rendezvous in the first instance on the North River; the others had best proceed to Conecticut River and be distributed as the circumstance of forage will permit. The ultimate point for the whole will be Connecticut River avoiding to deposit any nearer than thirty miles to the sound, as it might expose them to the enterprises of the enemy.

2d. One months provision ought to be made at Providence for the first wants of the French troops. The other provision of every kind procured (on the East of the North River), may be disposed of from Connecticut to Providence none nearer to the sound than the distance above mentioned. Whatever is procured in Pensylvania and to the Southward may be deposited in the principal and least exposed posts in the respective states and places admitting an easy and speedy transportation to them to be embarked and sent to the point of operation which will be hereafter determined. These general ideas are all that General Washington has it in his power to give at this time as the plan of operations cannot yet be determined. Mr De Corny's judgment will govern him in the particular dispositions. But all that is here recommended is intended to be subordinate to the arrangements already concerted with The Chevalier De la Luzerne.

[3.] The state of Connecticut will be the best receptacle for these according to the convenience of procuring forage. They will take the route by Morris Town Fishkill.

[4.] It is with great reluctance General Washington can be induced to approve the least alteration in the disposition made

by The Count De Rochambeau and in the present case in particular he would have been happy to have promoted the expectations of the Duke De Lauzun. But as His Excellency The Chevalier De La Luzerne has represented that the funds provided would be unequal to the extensive preparations required and expressed a strong desire to have such articles as were not absolutely necessary retrenched; at the sametime pointing out the horses for the legion from the nature of the service as the article most susceptible of retrenchment. General Washington influenced by these considerations has given it as his opinion, that fifty or sixty horses would be at least necessary; that it were to be wished a complete squadron agreeable to the French ordinance could be formed; and that the remainder might be deferred till an augmentation of means should make the purchase more convenient than at the present juncture. General Washington advises Mr. DeCorny to conform to the instructions he may have received on this head from His Excellency The Chevalier De La Luzerne; though he by all means would recommend that if the funds procured should appear more adequate to the exigencies of the service than they now do, the plan of the Duke De Lauzun should be carried into execution in its full extent.

[5.] The best route for Mr. De Corny will be by Mount Hope, Chester, Warrick, New Windsor, Fish Kill and Hartford; there he shall cross the river to Providence; where Mr. De Corny may expect the French army. General Washington would not however advise him to confine himself to this point, when his presence elsewhere is necessary. He will regulate his motions by the nature of the business with which he is charged.[58]

[58] The answers are in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. The questions, in French, in the writing of De Corny, are in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, Springfield, June 10, 1780.

Sir: I have the honor to introduce to You Monsr De Corny, Commissary of War in the service of His Most Christian Majesty. This Gentleman is charged with the important trust of procuring the necessary Supplies of every sort for the French army, on which business he is now proceeding to the Eastern States. I have given him this Letter for Your Excellency to request you will afford him all the assistance in your power towards accomplishing the Objects of his mission in their fullest extent. I have assured him that you will be happy in the opportunity of facilitating his operations in every way that may contribute to the success of the combined operations. Gratitude for so generous a succour, and the interest of these States unite in requiring this of us. Your Excellency's known wisdom and zeal make it unnecessary to suggest motives.

I take the liberty to recommend Monsr. De Corny to Your Excellency's particular attention. His personal merit and zeal in the common cause intitle him to every mark of consideration. I have the Honor etc.[59]

[59] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

This same letter was sent to Gov. William Greene, of Rhode Island, and President Jeremiah Powell, of the Massachusetts Council. In the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress, under date of June 10, 1780, is a memorandum in French, drafted for Washington by Lafayette. Hamilton's translation is as follows: "As far as the means of Mr. De Corny will suffice he will without doubt occupy himself in fulfilling the intention of The Count De Rochambeau, knowing not only the letter but also the spirit of the instructions he has received from the French General, being better qualified than any other person to judge of the wants and conveniences of a corps of French troops and having had occasion to confer on this subject with the Minister Plenipotentiary of His Most Christian Majesty, I am persuaded he will follow in all his arrangements the plan most conducive to the service and most conformable to the wishes of The Count De Rochambeau. The choice that His Most Christian Majesty has made of him the knowledge that I have had of his abilities real and personal resource convince me that the measures he shall take will be entitled to my intire approbation; and he may rely on all the aid which shall depend on me to enable him to fulfil his instructions satisfy the demands of the service and the wishes of

To LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT[60]

Head Quarters, near Springfield, June 10, 1780.

Sir: By accounts, tho' not official, I am informed that the party under the command of Sir Jno. Johnson have made a precipitate retreat, upon the approach of His Excellency the Governor. Should this have been the case, I do not apprehend that there will be any occasion for General Clinton to advance with his Brigade beyond Albany. Under present circumstances and appearances that force is most essentially necessary at West point. General Knyphausen with the greater part of the troops remaining at New York landed last Wednesday morning at Elizabeth Town seemingly with an intention to penetrate the Country, but after advancing five or six Miles, in which distance he was warmly opposed by Maxwells Brigade and the Militia hastily assembled, he returned the same evening to Elizabeth town point and the next day threw over his Waggons, part of his Artillery and some of his Horse to Staten Island, from which we concluded he meant to return with his whole force to his former positions. But contrary to our expectations he still remains on Elizabeth Town point and has brought back some Cavalry, Artillery, and Stores. It is difficult to determine with precision the intent of this maneuvre. By some it is conjectured, that it is meant to amuse us here, while the whole or part of the force from the southward is to return and operate against the posts upon the North River, the Garrisons of which are exceedingly reduced by the expiration of service of the Men alloted to them. This carries

The Count De Rochambeau. I shall have the honor to deliver him three letters for the governor of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and for the President and Council of Massachusetts."

[60] Of New York.

with it the greater air of probability, as we have too much reason to think that Charles town has fallen to Sir Henry Clinton. West point with the addition of General Clinton's Brigade would be tolerably secure against any Coup de main, and except it can be carried in that way, it may be relieved by reinforcements from the Neighbouring States. From this short view of matters, you will see the necessity of bringing down the New York Brigade unless the cause of sending it up should still exist. Should you therefore be of opinion that their service may be dispensed with at present, you will be pleased to forward the inclosed by Express to General Clinton which contains an order for his return to West Point, and which I hope nothing short of the most urgent occasion for his stay above, will prevent being sent to him. I have the honor etc.[61]

To PRESIDENT CÆSAR RODNEY[62]

Head Quarters, at Springfield, June 10, 1780.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive Your Letter of the 3d. Instant. It appears to me necessary that appointments should be made to the Four Vacant Ensigncies which Major Patten has reported. It is essential to service that Troops should be well officered and in ours the complement allowed should be generally full, as from the nature of our establishment, it is rather limited, and besides three or four Officers are employed in the Regimental and Brigade Staff, who do not act in the common rotine of duty, not to mention that Others are often taken as aids and for other purposes. I mention appointments to the Four Ensigncies only, as the places of the Two Officers in captivity cannot be considered as vacant and of consequence these ought not to be filled by Others. Their captivity

[61] The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.
[62] Of Delaware.

however, as Your Excellency very justly intimates is an additional reason to those I have mentioned for making the proposed arrangement. I am &c.[63]

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Short Hills, Thursday, June 10, 1780.

Parole Perseverance. Countersigns Peace, Plenty.

Watchword Independence.

Returns of the Canteens actually wanting in the several brigades to be made immediately by the brigade Quarter masters (signed by the commanding officers respectively) and presented to the Quarter master General in order to their being drawn.

The firing of two pieces of Cannon from the Centre of the second line will announce the advance of the enemy upon which the Troops are immediately to parade and remain under Arms for orders.

Two days provisions beforehand to be kept continually cooked.

In the present situation the officers will take the most effectual measures to keep the men near their respective quarters and will not themselves leave their Corps with out being detached by order.

The practice of going into the vicinity of the Enemy which is too common without being sent there on Service is entirely contrary to discipline and may be attended with ill consequences.

EVENING ORDERS

As it is totally inconsistent with the Safety of the Camp that transient persons should be passing through the Encampment

[63] The draft is in the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.

after dark and impossible to discriminate between Friends and foes the Commander in Chief directs that all Persons passing after nine o clock without the Countersign be taken up and confined 'till morning when the Field officers of the day may release or confine them as they shall think proper.

Colonel Angell's regiment to relieve Colonel Hazen's this evening.

A Subs Guard to be mounted this Evening at Head Quarters from the front Line.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Short Hills, Sunday, June 11, 1780.

MORNING ORDERS

The State or Sub Clothiers to apply without delay to the Deputy Clothier General at Colonel Potters on the Baskenridge road for their proportion of shoes, if the Sub Clothiers are not present officers are to be appointed for the purpose of receiving the shoes and delivering them to the regimental Clothiers.

A trusty Corporal to be sent from each division immediately to Colonel Potters to assist the Deputy Clothier General.

Parole Patriotism. Countersigns Jersey, Brave.

Watchword Halloo.

AFTER ORDERS

The General observed with great pain to day that a number of men were straggling to a considerable distance from Camp on a variety of frivolous pretences and without passes from the Commandants of their regiments.

This Practice subversive of all discipline and pernicious in every point of view demands the utmost care of the officers to prevent it; The General for this Purpose enjoins a strict

observance of the Regulations forbidding any noncommission'd officer or Soldier to pass the chain of Sentinels without a written permission from the commanding officer of his regiment; and those respecting Roll-calls; and the more effectually to prevent straggling He authorizes every officer who shall find a Soldier without the chain unprovided with the Permit requir'd to order him on the spot fifty lashes. The visit directed to be made at Tatoo Beating will be always under the Inspection of a Commission'd officer and the Tatoo will beat at nine o clock 'till further orders;

The advance Corps not to beat.

To COLONEL CLEMENT BIDDLE

Head Quarters, June 11, 1780.

Dear Sir: If Forage within the vicinity of the Camp cannot be obtained by any other means than impress, the measure however disagreeable must be adopted. You will let me know to what limits the Warrant shall extend. The Forage Masters can only be assured that if they are sued in consequence of the execution of their duty, the public must bear them harmless. It is not in my power to stop the process of the law. If we should be under the necessity of pressing, a distinction should be made between the well and ill affected. I am etc.[64] [H.S.P.]

To THE COMMITTEE OF COOPERATION

Head Quarters, Springfield, June 11, 1780.

Gentlemen: It appears to me to be a very eligible step, at the present juncture, to reiterate our instances with the several States, to engage them to press the measures recommended in

[64] In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

your former letter. Not only the time is sliding away very fast, every moment of which ought to be improved for the intended co-operation, but the movements of the Enemy demand every exertion in our power for the purposes of defence. There can now remain no doubt that Charles Town and its Garrison have fallen. There is every reason to believe, that Sir Henry Clinton with the whole, or the greatest part of his force will shortly arrive at New York. The expectation of the French Fleet and army will certainly determine the Enemy to unite their force. General Knyphausen still continues in the Jerseys with all the force which can be spared from New York; a force greatly superior to ours. Should Sir Henry join him the superiority will be decided, and equal to almost any thing the Enemy may think proper to attempt. It is true they are at this time inactive, but their continuance where they are proves that they have some prospect of importance in contemplation. Perhaps they are only waiting till the militia grow tired and return home (which they are doing every hour) to prosecute their designs with less opposition. This would be a critical moment for us. Perhaps they are waiting the arrival of Sir Henry Clinton either to push up the North River against the highland posts, or to bend their whole force against this army. In either case the most disastrous consequences are to be apprehended. You who are well acquainted with our situation need no arguments to evince the danger.

The militia of this State have run to Arms and behaved with an ardor and spirit of which there are few examples. But perseverance in enduring the rigors of military service is not to be expected from those who are not by profession obliged to it. The reverse of this opinion has been a great misfortune in our affairs and it is high time we should recover from an error of so pernicious a nature. We must absolutely have a force of a

different composition or we must relinquish the contest. In a few days we may expect to have to depend almost wholly on our Continental force, and this (from your own observation)[65] is totally inadequate to our safety. The exigency calls loudly upon the States to carry all the recommendations of the Committee into the most vigorous and immediate execution, but more particulary that of completing our battalions by a draft, and with all the expedition possible.

I beg leave to advise, that these ideas be all clearly held up to the States. Whatever inconvenience there may be in diffusing the knowledge of our circumstances, delicate as they are, there is in my opinion more danger in concealing, than disclosing them.

I have the honor etc.

I inclose you a paper with the articles of capitulation of Chs. town.[66]

To JEREMIAH WADSWORTH

Camp at Springfield, June 11, 1780.

Dr Sir: I have received your Two favors of the 5 and 6th Inst and thank you very much for your exertions for our relief, and for your tender of services. As I am most fully persuaded of the sincerity in which the offer is founded, and as I know it is your earnest wish, I shall without hesitation avail myself of them whenever the exigency of our affairs may make it necessary. You will readily conclude, by the part I have taken in my late applications, that I know whatever was in your power to do, to promote the service, might be asked without the least scruple. And I am certain from the happy experience I have

[65] In the draft, which is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton, the words in parentheses were inserted by Washington.

[66] In the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

had of His Excellency, the Governor's zeal and readiness on all occasions, to advance the public interest, that nothing within his compass will be ever wanting to promote it to its fullest extent. From the very delicate situation of our affairs at this time, the most enerjetic exertions of every public body and of every virtuous Individual are essential. With these we may obtain what we wish, but with any thing short, the attainment will be extremely precarious, and I think I shall not hazard much if I say impracticable. I wish the loss of Charles Town which is placed beyond doubt, tho I have received no Official advices of it on our part, may have the effect you hope. It is certain the Country seems to be in an unaccountable state of security and to be sunk in the greatest supineness, and if this loss should rouse it, it may ultimately turn to our advantage, tho I confess it pains me that such events should be requisite to induce us to proper exertions.

With respect to Arms for the Recruits, we are endeavouring to provide them, and I hope we shall be able to accomplish it. If we should not, it will be a disagreeable circumstance and we must have recourse to the States. I have used every means in my power to prevent the discharged Soldiery from time to time carrying away their Arms; but I am persuaded they do it in a variety of instances nevertheless; and doubt not many of those you saw belonged to the Continent. The loss of Arms is among the innumerable and unavoidable ill consequences of limited inlistments.

On Tuesday night the Enemy landed at Elizabeth Town point, with [almost their whole] force under the command of General Knyphausen and proceeded the next morning into the Country within half a mile of Springfield. At night they retired to the point of debarkation where they have remained ever since. In their advance they were most spiritedly opposed

by the Jersey Brigade which lay in the neighbourhood and such of the Militia as had an opportunity from their situation and the suddenness of the occasion to turn out with the greatest spirit; and there is reason to believe they were a good deal galled. Brigadier Genl Stirling it seems from good intelligence was wounded in the Thigh soon after they debarked, by our picket. This movement of the Enemy has brought our Army to the heights in the rear of this place. The Jersey Militia have turned out with the most admirable spirit upon the occasion and hitherto done themselves great honor. You but too well know and will regret with me, the cause which justifies this insulting maneuvre on the part of the Enemy. It deeply effects the honor of the States, a vindication of which could not be attempted in our present circumstances, without most intimately hazarding their security, at least so far as it may depend on that of the Army. Their character; their Interest; their all that is dear, call upon them to fill their Regiments immediately, and to place their Army on a respectable footing. I am etc.

P. S. The Enemy as usual, burnt a meeting House and several Dwelling Houses and Barnes. They lost between Thirty and forty Prisoners. Our loss upon this occasion has been very inconsiderable.[67]

To MAJOR HENRY LEE

Head Quarters near Springfield, June 11, 1780.

Dr Sir: I have rec'd your favor of this date. The spirit which has been exhibited by your corps on the present occasion gives me pleasure, and be assured meets with my Thanks and

[67] In the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison. From the original in the possession of Hon. James W. Wadsworth, of Geneseo, N. Y.

Approbation. As your rapid progress must have fatigued the Cavalry in some degree, I wish you for the present to take post somewhere in our rear; perhaps Chatham or its vicinity is as well calculated to afford you forage as any other place. You will however when you have fixed on the spot be pleased by a line to point it out to me. I am &c.

P. S. I shall be glad to see you at my Qrs. to morrow morng.[68]

To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Head Quarters, near Springfield, June 11, 1780.

Dear Sir: I am honored with your Excellency's favor of the 6th, conveying the very agreeable intelligence that a quantity of salted provision is on the way to West Point. It gives me much pleasure to hear that vigorous measures are pursuing by your State to draw forth its resources of Men and supplies, and I am not without hope that the same good disposition will pervade the whole. I am pursuaded that the Zeal, which you have manifested upon every former occasion, will, if possible, be increased upon this. The generous interposition of our Ally calls for every exertion on our part, and if we do not strenuously embrace the favorable opportunity which now presents itself, we shall perhaps set down with the melancholy reflexion, that we lost the prize for which we long nobly and virtuously contended, by a want only of a proper use and direction of the means, which we have within our power, at the last and critical moment.

The loss of Charles town seems now reduced to a certainty. It will no doubt give spirit to our Enemies, and have a temporary effect upon our Affairs. But if extensively considered and rightly improved, it may be attended in the end by happy

[68] The draft is in the writing of Richard Kidder Meade.

consequences. The enemy, by attempting to hold conquests so remote, must dissipate their force, and of course afford opportunities of striking one or the other extremity.

General Knyphausen, with the greater part of the force left with him, made a landing at Elizabeth Town last Wednesday morning, and advanced within a mile of this place. He was warmly opposed in his progress by General Maxwells Brigade, and the few Jersey Militia who assembled on the instant. He returned the same evening to Elizabeth town point, and, by throwing over his Waggons, and part of his Artillery and Cavalry to Staten Island, seemed determined to return to his former positions in New York and its dependencies. He however, on Friday, brought back some Artillery and Horse, and still remains in force upon the point. The meaning of this maneuvre yet remains a secret. He either wants to draw us to an unequal engagement with inferior numbers, (as to Continental Troops) or to amuse us here, while perhaps part of the troops is to be drawn from the southward, and to operate suddenly against the posts upon the North River, which are in so defenceless a state, on account of the expiration of the service of the Men who were allotted to garrison them, that I am very apprehensive for the consequences, should such an attempt be in contemplation. This is an additional motive to my wish to still remains in force upon the Point. The meaning of this have those posts well supplied with provision. We might then, upon an emergency, call in a body of neighbouring Militia to the reinforcement of the Garrison. The Enemy, who are undoubtedly well informed of our circumstances, are now taking advantage of the reduced state of the Continental Army. We have been compelled to behold them ravaging a fine Country below the Mountain, with a force, in fact, inconsiderable, but still such as we should not have been justified in meeting. And

to this indignity we must, as often as they please, submit, 'till we receive the quotas of men required from the respective States.

I most sincerely condole with your Excellency on the late severe stroke which you have met with in your family.[69] Although calamities of this kind are what we should all be prepared to expect, yet few, upon their arrival, are able to bear them with a becoming fortitude. Your determination however to seek assistance from the great disposer of all human events is highly laudable, and is the source from whence the truest consolation is to be drawn. I am etc.[70]

[69] The death of Trumbull's wife.

[70] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

INDEX

INDEX

By David M. Matteson

Abeel, *Col.* James, quarters, 283, 423; office, 283*n*.

Absence without leave, as servants of absent officers, 5; overlong detail, 63; straggling, 73, 502–504; officers, 142–144, 261. *See also* Desertion; Furloughs; Leave.

Abuse and insult, of officers by officers, 144, 341. *See also* Assault.

Accounts, claims, and warrants, impressed provisions, 207; clothing arrearages, 249; British prisoners of war, 272*n*; detached officer, 324; officers' forage, 395; French army, 419; commissary of forage, 447. *See also* Pay.

Accouterments. *See* Equipments.

Adam, John, letter to, 345; relief of prisoner officer, 345; office, 345*n*.

Adams, John, on Spanish attitude, 242*n*; on peace prospects, 298*n*.

Additional and Nonstate Continental regiments, credit in state quotas, returns for data, 14–17, 21, 24, 27, 39, 53, 54, 75, 101, 102, 207; state provision for, 19; inspection, 77; question of filling, 187, 203; brigaded, 190; rearrangement and provision for officers, distress, relief, 203, 207; remaining force, 418. *See also* Artificers; Artillery; Canadian regiments; Cavalry; German Battalion; Gist, Nathaniel; Hartley, Thomas; Invalid corps; Jackson, Henry; Provost; Rawlings, Moses; Spencer, Oliver; Sherburne, Henry; Warner, Seth; Webb, Samuel Blatchley.

Addresses, circulars to states by Washington and committee of cooperation, 35, 159, 416, 435, 456, 465, 468, 483, 504.

Adjutant general, communication of general orders, 103, 146; acting, thanked, 249; fatigue parties, 260. *See also* Scammell, Alexander.

Adjutants, appointment, 250, 316, 378.

Advanced line in New Jersey, vigilance, and British activity, 6, 7, 40, 106–108, 147, 148, 267, 326, 327, 365, 366; command, 60, 205, 206; militia horse patrol, 107, 284, 288; position, quarters, works, 117, 130, 373, 385, 388, 440, 461, 462, 474; guard boats, 130; surprised at Paramus, 271; clothing, 279; detachments, change, 280, 345,

355, 355*n*, 366; Washington and La Luzerne visit, 287; and celebration at main camp, 293; resistance of British advance, 487, 488, 490, 491, 493, 495, 508.

Aides. *See* Military secretaries.

Alarm, advanced line and camp guns, 147, 148; in field, 502. *See also* Signals.

Albany, N. Y., clothing, 23.

Alexander, Morgan, Mercer affairs, 247.

Alexander, *Gen.* William. *See* Stirling.

Alexander, *Maj.* William(?), maneuvers, 433.

Allison, Samuel, letter to, 243; assaulted, 243–245.

Allowances. *See* Pay.

Amboy, N. J., cartel negotiations, 60–62, 272.

American Philosophical Society, Washington's election, 11.

American Revolution, British attitude, 70, 101, 322, 323*n*, 353; and European conditions, 123; Washington's optimism, 204; importance of sea power, 271; reported British plans to rule trade, 329; Congress and crisis, 453, 454*n*. *See also* Army; Commerce; Continental Congress; Finances; Foreign relations; Frontier; Intercourse; Loyalists; Navy; Peace.

Ammunition, waste, 4, 6, 62; emergent issue, 163; inspection, in field, 305, 492; for militia, right of requisition, 478. *See also* Arms; Cartridges.

Amusements, officers' winter assembly, 261*n*.

Angell, *Col.* Israel, soldier court-martialed, 3; critcism of regiment, 63; clothing, 108; brigaded, 190; officer of the day, 255, 285, 318, 351, 402, 467; men from Sherburne's regiment, 319; maneuvers, 395, 423; front line in field, 503.

Anmours, *Chevalier* d', consul, 419.

Anniversaries, St. Patricks Day, 120.

Antill, *Lieut. Col.* Edward, prisoner of war, relief, 345.

Arbuthnot, *Adm.* Marriot, to South, 124.

Armand-Tuffin, Charles, *marquis* de la Rouerie, returns, 25; augmented corps, Pulaski's men, 25.

Armorers, to Fort Pitt, 111, 113.

Arms, waste, 4, 6, 62; of discharged men, 9, 309, 507; unfit, officers' responsibility, 16; reliance on importation, 24; adequate reserve, 76; cavalry need, issue, 85, 91, 280, 281; repairs at Fort Pitt, 111, 113; emergent issue, 163; officers' spontoons, 215, 472; general

inspection, 305, 319; returns on needs, issue, 306, 407, 408; soldiers disposing, 319; gunnery experiments, 332, 350; supply with bayonets, 339; for 1780 recruits, 507. *See also* Ammunition; Artillery; Military stores.

Armstrong, Edward A., letters possessed by, 321*n*, 446*n*, 462*n*.

Armstrong, John, committee on army distress and unrest, 432*n*.

Armstrong, *Lieut.* John, court-martial, cashiered, restored, 63–65; pursuit of deserters, 147; service, 147*n*.

Army. *See* British army; Continental army; French army; Militia.

Arnold, *Gen.* Benedict, proposed naval expedition, 115, 173; trial, proceedings to Washington, 127, 128*n*; letter to, 173; leave of absence, 173; child, 174; sentence, reprimand, 222–225; proclamation to Canadians, letter, 476, 476*n*.

Arnold, *Mrs.* Benedict, services to British, 476*n*.

Arrest, breaking by officer, 142.

Arsac, Charles Louis d'. *See* Ternay.

Articles of Confederation. *See* Confederation.

Artificers, regiment, arrangement, 1, 2; recruiting, British deserters, 1, 2; returns, 15; reenlistment, gratuity, 79; officers court-martialed, 149, 161, 162; details, recall to line, 221, 240; officers, 277*n*, 480*n*; ship carpenters, 495. *See also* Baldwin, Jeduthan; Flower, Benjamin.

Artillery, artificers returns, 15; independent companies, arrangement, regimenting, 31, 273, 274, 277, 311; inspection, 77; clothing, 108; for Fort Pitt, 111, 112; new arrangement, memorial of officers, 196, 277–279, 481; from Providence to Springfield, countermand, 217, 244, 338, 412, 412*n*; to South, arrangement, ranking, 243, 272, 279; rule of promotions, 272, 273; bounty, 276; transfer to, on reenlistment, 304; platform planks, 365, 379, 413; at Fort Schuyler, 389; for New York brigade, 443*n*; "grasshoppers," 443n; preparations for 1780 campaign, 460. *See also* Knox, Henry; regiments by number.

Artisans. *See* Artificers.

Ashley, *Capt.* Moses, letter to, 474; promotion, 474.

Assault, officer on soldiers, 162; officers on officers, 184, 296, 314; officer on civilian, 243–245. *See also* Abuse.

Atlee, *Col.* Samuel John, battalion, 230*n*; exchange, 305.

Auchmuty, Mary, letter to, 194.

Auchmuty, Richard, parole to see wife, 195.

Aurora, privateer, prize, 276*n*.

Baggage, brigade commander and wagon, 250.
Bagley, *Ensign,* Josiah, intercession, 34; service, 34*n*.
Bailey, *Col.* John, brigade, 190; letter to, 316; proposed resignation, 316.
Baldwin, *Col.* Jeduthan, artificer regiment, 2.
Ball, George A., letter possessed by, 389*n*.
Ballard, *Capt.* Jeremiah, letter to, 318; flour guard, 318.
Ballard, *Maj.* William Hudson, exchange of regiment, 182.
Balls, officers' assembly at Morristown, 261*n*.
Barbé-Marbois, François, *marquis* de, Washington's compliments, 301; letter to, 335; at camp, 335.
Barber, *Lieut. Col.* Francis, at parade, 269.
Barney, Nathan, whipping, 3.
Barrels, repair, 134.
Barrett, William, pardon, 3.
Basking Ridge, N. J., hospital, guard, 105, 401*n*.
Baton Rouge, Spanish capture, 56.
Battalion. *See* Regiments.
Bauman, *Maj.* Sebastian, gunnery experiments, 332, 350.
Bayley, *Gen.* Jacob, court-martial, 98–101; letters to, 99, 115; proposed volunteer company, 115.
Baylor, *Col.* George, regiment returns, 13; Norton, 441.
Bayonets, on new guns, 339.
Beard, William, sawmill repairs, 105.
Beatty, *Lieut.* Erkurius, adjutant, 378; service, 378*n*.
Beatty, John, marine prisoners, 26; state prisoners, 26; improper intercourse, court-martial, reprimand, 33; letters to, 43*n*, 68, 116, 195*n*, 216; Deane, 43*n*; cartel negotiations, 60, 116, 117; to retire, 168; captured chaplains, 201, 216; leave of absence, 216.
Béchet, *Capt.* Etienne Nicolas Marie. *See* Rochefontaine.
Beckwith, ——, double spy, prepared information, 82, 83.
Bedford, Pa., specific supplies, 253.
Bedkin, *Capt.* Henry, letter to, 35*n*; returns, 35*n*; status, 117.
Beekman, *Col.* Barnard, artillery command, 273; service, 273*n*.
Bell, Matthew, court-martial, capital penalty, pardon, 380, 422*n*.
Bell, Samuel, court-martial, capital penalty, pardon, 110, 342.
Benstead, *Ensign* Alexander, paymaster, resigns, 360; service, 360*n*.
Bernard, *Capt.* John, negro soldier, 81, 108.
Bibby, *Lieut.* Thomas, pass, 202.

Biddle, *Col.* Clement, forage scarcity, letter, 50, 50*n*, 89, 94; letters to, 138*n*, 383, 426, 447, 504; specific supplies, 138*n*, 155, 447; to retire, Washington's commendation, remains on request, letter, 383, 426, 427*n*, 447; accounts, 395, 447.

Bigelow, *Col.* Timothy, brigaded, 190.

Bilboa, Spain, news, 217.

Billop, *Col.* Christopher, exchange, 304.

Bills of exchange, for prisoners of war, 471, 480.

Birt. *See* Burt.

Blaine, *Col.* Ephraim, meat scarcity, 121, 227, 229, 251, 426; specific supplies, deposits, 138; letters to, 138*n*, 229, 426; funds for cattle, 327.

Bland, Theodorick, committee on cartel negotiations, 189*n*.

Blankets, on hand, 59*n*; from British source, threat against, escort, 212–214.

Block (Clock), *Ensign* Jacob I., resignation, 374; service, 374*n*.

Board of Admiralty, 26*n*; letters to, 114, 443; naval project, 114, 115, 173; delicacies for headquarters, 349, 352.

Board of Treasury, letters to, 192, 358, 446; specie at Washington's call, 358; Biddle, 446.

Board of War, letters to, 1, 12, 25, 45, 51, 54, 69, 75, 85, 111, 128, 148, 179, 193*n*, 212, 226, 227, 234, 277, 294, 302, 325, 331, 427, 480, 488; nonstate corps returns, 13; clothing, 38, 85–87, 91, 92, 167; courts-martial, 51, 148, 161, 162, 258; data for recruiting, 54; new arrangement, commissions, 69, 128, 277; hide barter irregularities, 110; monthly returns, 139; provisions, 150, 427; Lee's corps, 179, 488; muster rolls, 192; supplies from British source, 212–214; pay arrears, 287, 289; German Battalion, 302; arms, 339; provost, 347*n*.

Boats, at Fort Pitt, lost, 113; guard, for advanced line, 130; impressment, 242; sale, 294; for 1780 campaign, collection, repair, 308, 364, 365, 459, 495; for cooperation with Rochambeau, 423; preparation for bridge, 460.

Bogart, Cornelius, plundered, 110, 342.

Bogart, Laban, Pennsylvania soldier, 346.

Boots, on hand, 59*n*.

Boude, *Capt.* Thomas, light corps, 191; service, 192*n*.

Bounty, state and continental, uneven state, 140, 170, 171; to recruiting officers, 140, 171, 176, 194; defrauding soldiers, 161; on enlistment for the war, 171, 194; Additional Regiments, 187; status of continental, 275; nonstate officers and state, for recruiting, 303; jumping, 381. *See also* Gratuity.

Bowdoin, James, letters to, 298, 366; state constitution, 298; information on Halifax, 362, 366, 367*n*; preparations for Rochambeau, 366.

Bowen, *Dep.-Gov.* Jabez, news, 169; letters to, 216, 338; removal of artillery, 338.

Bowman, *Capt.* Nathaniel, light corps, 191; service, 192*n*; escort of supplies, 212.

Bradford, *Col.* Gamaliel, brigaded, 190.

Bradford, *Maj.* William, maneuvers, 422.

Bradley, *Col.* Philip Burr, brigaded, 190.

Brass, collection, 76.

Bread. *See* Flour.

Breeches, on hand, cloth and leather, 59*n*.

Brewster, *Lieut.* Caleb, intelligence, 92.

Bridges of boats, preparations, 460.

Brigade majors and inspectors, returns books, 114; communication of general orders, 146; paroles and countersigns, 177; duties, 249.

Brigades, commanders to headquarters, 105; right of commander to baggage wagon, 250.

Brigadier generals. *See* General officers; brigades under state names.

Brinkhurst, George, coach for Washington, 129, 233.

British army, force in America, 483–485. *See also* Campaign of 1780; Mercenaries; Prisoners of war; regiments by number.

Brodhead, *Col.* Daniel, strength of regiment, 37*n*; letter to, 111; winter expedition plans, 111; irregular court-martial, 112; regiment returns, 112; furlough, 113; tents, 294. *See also* Fort Pitt.

Brooks, *Lieut. Col.* John, brigaded, 190.

Brown, George, court-martial, 65.

Brown, Thomas, court-martial, capital penalty, pardon, 110, 221, 422*n*.

Brown, *Lieut. Col.* Thomas, to South, 195, 197.

Brown, *Capt.* William, at Fort Schuyler, 278, 389; service, 278*n*.

Brown, *Dr.* William, acting director general, 289; service, 289*n*; letter to, 291; surgeons to Virginia, 291.

Bruen, *Maj.* Jeremiah, on lack of funds, letter, 277*n*.

Brunner, *Capt.* Jacob, light corps, 191; service, 192*n*.

Buckles, on hand, 59*n*.

Bull, *Maj.* Epaphras, transfer, 280, 281.

Bull, James, deputy clothier general, 281; letter to, 283, 473*n*; cavalry clothing, 283, 473, 473*n*.

Bulls Ferry, plans against, 342, 402, 402*n*.

Bunnell, *Capt.* Jacob. *See* Brunner.

Burke, Edmund, pardon, 35.

Burke, Thomas, letter to, 20*n*; committees: specific supplies, 156*n*; depreciation of pay, 315*n*.

Burlington, N. J., winter post, 179, 184*n*.

Burroughs. *See* Burrowes.

Burrowes, *Lieut.* Eden, assaulted, 314; service, 314*n*.

Burrowes, *Maj.* John, letters to, 292, 344; flour guard, 292, 296, 302, 344; service, 292*n*.

Burt, William, detail, 162.

Butler, *Col.* Richard, brigaded, 190; officer of the day, 485.

Butler, *Lieut. Col.* William, brigaded, 190; detachment, 295; officer of the day, 336, 377; maneuvers, 404, 451.

Butler, *Col.* Zebulon, brigaded, 190; letter to, 228; raids on Wyoming, 228.

Caldwell, *Rev.* James, signals, 108; visit of high command, 288.

Calvin, Thomas, court-martial, capital penalty, pardon, 408, 422*n*.

Cambridge, *Sergt.* John, substitute for balance of enlistment, 48.

Camp color men, detail, 422, 477. *See also* Police.

Campaign of 1780, quartermaster department preparations, 96–98; transportation question, 158; northern, and more troops to South, 197; arrangement of army, 190, 191, 202; expectations, 298; difficulty in planning, 412; force needed, 417–419; complete lack of resources (May), probable result, 434; sea power, 435, 436; dependence of commissary on Pennsylvania, 438; militia call, 468; Knyphausen's New Jersey advance, American position and measures, 486–495, 500, 505, 507, 510; as crisis, 507–509. *See also* Frontier; New York City; Rochambeau; Southern campaign.

Campbell, Archibald(?), tavern, 492.

Campbell, James, New Jersey justice of the peace, furlough interference, 92.

Campbell, *Capt.* Patrick, parole to New York, 28.

Canada, danger of expedition from, 115; force in, 484. *See also* next titles.

Canadian expedition, The Cedars affair, 93.

Canadian regiments, officer, 283*n*. *See also* Hazen, Moses; Livingston, James.

Canadians, proposed proclamation to, 386, 476, 476*n*.

Cannon. *See* Artillery.

Canteens, field returns on need, 492, 502.

Cape Henry, Va., and Rochambeau's approach, 368, 370, 372, 375, 387, 397.

Cape St. Vincent, W. I., naval action, 241*n*.

Capitaine, *Maj.* Pierre, Lafayette's baggage, 451; Lafayette's aide, 451*n*.

Caps, woolen and linen, on hand, 59*n*.

Carlisle, Pa., specific supplies, 253.

Carnes, *Lieut.* Patrick, assault on civilian, 243–245; service, 243*n*.

Carriage, coach for Washington, 128, 129, 177, 178, 233, 234.

Carrington, *Lieut. Col.* Edward, cartel negotiations, instructions, 61, 84, 87–89, 189*n*, 272*n*; letters to, 84, 87; southern artillery command, 273.

Cartel. *See* Prisoners of war.

Cartouche. *See* Cartridge.

Cartridge (cartouche) boxes, returns, 63; new styles, 339.

Cartridges, issue of blank, 276; allowance, 319. *See also* preceding title; Ammunition.

Cartwright, *Capt.* Thomas, rank and status, 68; Heath's aide, 68*n*.

Casualties, British raid near White Plains, 18*n*; Knyphausen's New Jersey expedition, 508.

Caswell, *Gov.* Richard, letters to, 160*n*, 231; specific supplies, 231.

Cattle for army, difficulties, 150; specific supplies, 157*n*; emergent supply, purchase, 251, 252, 327, 347; intercepted at West Point, 309, 327; impressment in Neutral Ground, 468. *See also* Hides; Meat; Tallow.

Cavalry, British winter activity, 7; winter quarters, Connecticut act, 18; inspection, 77; question of filling, 77, 203; arms and equipments, 85, 149, 167, 168; New Jersey militia light horse, 107; clothing, 167; rule of promotions, 272; pardon to deserters, 281; Virginia State Dragoons, 290*n*; transfer to, on reenlistment, 304. *See also* Armand-Tuffin, Charles; Lee, Henry; regiments by number.

Cedars, The, hostages, 93.

Celebrations. *See* Anniversaries.

Chain, Hudson River, alteration, 131.

Chambers, *Col.* James, brigades, 190; Moore affair, 142; service, 142*n*; officer of the day, 283.

Chamier, Achsah, and prisoners of war, 102.

Chamier, *Mrs.* Achsah, furniture from New York, 102.

Champion, *Col.* Henry, army supplies, 122; letters to, 251, 327, 347, 424; relief of meat famine, purchase of cattle, 251, 252, 327, 333, 347, 424.

Chancery, Mercer affairs, 246, 392.

Chapin, *Lieut.* Seth, overstay of furlough, 216; resigns, 216*n*.

Chaplains, release if captured, 202, 216, 475.

Chapman, *Maj.* Albert, officer of the day, 448; service, 448*n*; maneuvers, 477.

Charleston, siege of, constructing defenses, 55; British landing and investment, 145, 164, 220, 264, 276; fear, 151, 166, 203, 264, 265, 299, 306, 313, 353, 382; Du Portail sent, 163; forces, 164, 165, 371; holding criticized, 299; progress, 334, 354*n*, 363, 367, 391, 414; and expected French force, 376, 377, 398; Virginia brigades, 378; surrender, reaction, 453, 454, 461, 463, 479, 505–507, 509.

Charlestown, N. H. *See* Number Four.

Chatham, N. J., British advance, 487.

Cheever, Ezekiel, cavalry military stores, 281, 282; letter to, 282.

Christie, *Capt.* James, light corps, 191.

Church, Alexander, court-martial, 451, 452.

Church, *Maj.* Thomas, court-martial, 285, 290, 291, 346, 347; service, 285*n*; maneuvers, 400; officer of the day, 422.

Cilley, *Col.* Joseph, letter to, 98; and court-martial at Coos, 99; brigaded, 190.

Circular letters to states. *See* Addresses.

Civil power, New Jersey inquiry into extortion on soldiers, 85; interference with military seizures, 340; trade with the enemy as offense, 441.

Civilians, assault by officers, 243–245.

Claims. *See* Accounts.

Clark, Abraham, on supplies from British source, letter, 212*n*.

Clark, George Rogers, Detroit plan, 74, 75.

Clark, *Col.* Thomas, clothing for officers, 20.

Clark, *Corp.* Thomas, court-martial, capital penalty, pardon, 408, 422*n*.

Claverack, N. Y., militia rendezvous, 469, 470*n*.

Clements, William L., Library, Clinton Papers, 476*n*.

Clift, *Maj.* Wills, officer of the day, 466.

Clinton, *Gov.* George, letters to, 35*n*, 160*n*, 220, 253, 383, 405, 420, 443; army supplies from British source, 214; militia for state defense, 254; disturbed frontier, 405, 406, 409; preparations for Rochambeau, 407; provisions for Fort Schuyler, 420, 421*n*; supplies for marching New York brigade, 443.

Clinton, *Sir* Henry, to South, 58, 124; pass for messenger to, 202; letter to, 323*n*; return to New York, 371*n*, 463–465, 472, 505; Papers, 476n. *See also* Charleston.

Clinton, *Gen.* James, letters to, 4, 448, 496; brigade criticized, 4, 5; brigade, 190; orders court-martial, 184; councils of war on Southern campaign, 164*n*, 195*n*; officer of the day, 260, 295, 337, 359; maneuvers, 283; division command, 314; brigade to New York, instructions, 442, 449, 450, 496, 500, 501.

Cloaks, on hand, 59*n*.

Clock. *See* Block.

Cloth, dimity for Washington, 328.

Clothier general, deputies, 59*n*, 281. *See also* Wilkinson, James.

Clothing, undistributed, 5, 63; public, for officers, state supply, 17, 20, 117, 118, 126, 269, 473; winter transportation, 23; provision for summer, 38; necessary inequality, 46; nonstate corps, 47, 108; returns on needs, supply, 59, 70; amount of various articles on hand, 59*n*; expected, from France, 75, 78, 149; cavalry, 86, 90, 92, 167; state line distribution, 114, 167, 281, 283, 473; for levies, 127; distribution at West Point, 133; medical officer, 174; bounty, 187; pernicious effect of state supply, 209; from British source, threat against, escort, 212–214; guard, 248; arrearages accounts, 249; Virginia troops, 263, 265. *See also* Blankets; Clothier general; Shirts; Shoes; State clothier.

Coach. *See* Carriage.

Coats, on hand, 59*n*.

Cogswell, *Maj.* Thomas, letter to, 122*n*; furlough, 122*n*.

Colchester, Conn., winter quarters, 18*n*.

Coleman, James, court-martial, capital penalty, 318.

Colfax, *Lieut.* William, British advance, 486*n*.

Collard, James, 144.

Collyer, Nathaniel, exchange, 238.

Colt, Peter, public stores, 420.

Commander in chief, subordinate affairs imposed on, 73; state clothing for officers, 126; disrespect, 142; reported opinion on Greene as successor, 185*n*; optimism, 204; and instructions to committee of cooperation, 211*n*; La Luzerne on Congress and fear of power, 211*n*; reprimand of Arnold, 225; and southern command, 257, 258, 300; ball subscription, 261; countersign honoring, 283; commission for nephew, 306; La Luzerne on, 335*n*; integrity and duty, 392. *See also* next title; Addresses; Continental army; General orders; Headquarters; Proclamations.

Commander in Chief's Guard, detail to, 126, 250; Washington's nephew as officer, 306. *See also* Gibbs, Caleb.

Commerce. *See* Commissary; Communication; Imports; Trade with the enemy; Transportation.

Commissary, securing stores from weather, 22; Coos graft trial, 91, 98–101; state supplies, bad effect of system, 94, 209, 211*n*; Connecticut, 333; distress, 405; plans for drawing out supplies, 409; partiality and threats of mutiny, 424. *See also* next titles; Clothing; Forage; Liquor; Magazines; Military stores; Provisions; Quartermaster department; Specific supplies.

Commissary general of issues, deputies, 336*n*, 442*n*, 486*n*. *See also* Stewart, Charles.

Commissary general of purchases. *See* Blaine, Ephraim; Wadsworth, Jeremiah.

Commissary of forage. *See* Biddle, Clement.

Commissary of military stores, spontoons, 7. *See also* Military stores.

Commissary of prisoners of war, Ward and appointment, 313; deputy, 345*n*. *See also* Beatty, John; Skinner, Abraham.

Committee of cooperation at headquarters, appointment, instructions, purposes, 211*n*, 300, 356–358, 396; guard honors, 292; honored by parole and countersigns, 318; ordnance department, 321; arrival, 321*n*; letters to, 408, 416, 455, 504; drawing out supplies, 409; circular letter to states, preparation for Rochambeau cooperation, Washington's comments, 416–419, 435, 447, 455–459, 459*n*, 465, 468, 483, 504–506.

Communication. *See* Express; Intelligence; Intercourse.

Condo, William, enlisted servant, 247.

Conduct unbecoming to an officer. *See* Crimes.

Confederacy, U. S. S., mishap, 24*n*.

Confederation, Duane's efforts, 353.

Connecticut, winter protection, act on line posts, 18, 104; specific supplies, 50*n*, 154, 155, 156*n*, 158, 317, 318, 460; recruiting, quota, officers detailed, bounty, artillery, 82, 150, 170, 175, 206, 217, 218, 251, 303; saddlery for dragoons, 86; clothing for officers, 118; emergent provisions for army, 121, 150, 250, 333, 414, 420, 421*n*, 509; making up pay depreciation, 311; supplies for British, 333*n*; militia, making fascines, rendezvous, 466, 470*n*, 478. *See also* next titles.

Connecticut, governor of. *See* Trumbull, Jonathan.

Connecticut brigades, negro soldier, 81; clothing, 114; in light corps, 191; mutiny, 424–429, 451; inspection, 477; on march, 486; battle line, 487. *See also* Huntington, Jedidiah; Parsons, Samuel Holden.

Connecticut Eighth Regiment, light corps, 191; officer, 472*n*. *See also* Sherman, Isaac.

Connecticut Farms, N. J., movement to, 344; headquarters, orders from, 489, 490.

Connecticut Fifth Regiment, officers, 117*n*, 340, 448*n*; light corps, 191. *See also* Bradley, Philip Burr.

Connecticut First Regiment, light corps, 191. *See also* Starr, Josiah.

Connecticut Fourth Regiment, light corps, 191; officers, 340, 422*n*. *See also* Durkee, John.

Connecticut Ninth Regiment. *See* Webb, Samuel Blatchley.

Connecticut River, preparation of boats, 424. *See also* Coos.

Connecticut Second Regiment, light corps, 191. *See also* Butler, Zebulon.

Connecticut Seventh Regiment, light corps, 191. *See also* Swift, Heman.

Connecticut Sixth Regiment, light corps, 191. *See also* Meigs, Return Jonathan.

Connecticut State Library, material from, 53*n*, 151*n*, 218*n*, 304*n*, 391*n*, 403*n*, 426*n*, 464*n*, 466*n*, 499*n*, 511*n*.

Connecticut Third Regiment, light corps, 191. *See also* Wyllys, Samuel.

Connolly, *Dr.* (*Lieut. Col.*) John, status as prisoner, 55; exchange, 324, 325, 328; son to New York for education, 475, 480.

Connor, *Col.* Morgan, brigaded, 190.

Constitution, Massachusetts, Washington's comments, 298, 321.

Continental army, state interference, 18, 29, 43, 92; and local protection, 104, 172, 241, 242; naval request for troops, 115; general dissatisfaction, causes, diversity of state action, 208–211. *See also* Accounts; Anniversaries; Artificers; Artillery; Board of War; Boats; Brigades; Campaign of 1780; Cavalry; Crimes; Discharges; Drill; Fatigue; Frontier; Guards; Health; Intercourse; Invalid corps; Leave; March; Militia; Music; Officers; Police; Prisoners of war; Quarters; Recruiting; Regiments; Returns; Staff; Volunteers.

Continental Congress, recruiting for 1780, quotas, delay, 12, 13, 21, 35, 186, 275, 384; specific supplies, 135, 265; officer's disrespect, 142; fast, 146, 225; paper money, 151; Arnold trial, 225; clothing arrearages, 249; New York militia, 253; Washington's nephew, 306; finances, 323; liquidating depreciation in pay, 329; Lafayette before, 351, 352; plan for tariff duties, 354; Wayne on conditions, 382*n*; necessity of aggressive power, 453, 454*n*; promotions, 474. *See also* Board of Admiralty; Board of Treasury; Board of War; Committee of cooperation; Confederation; President.

Convention troops, cartel negotiations, accounts, 84, 189, 272*n*; privileges of officers, 238; court-martial of guard, 290.

Conway, *Lieut. Col.* John, officer of the day, 268; service, 268*n*; at court-martial, 285.

Conway, Moncure D., *George Washington,* 234*n*.

Cooper River, S. C., action, 354*n*.

Coopers, detail, 134.

Coos, N. H., commissary graft, trials, 91, 98–101.

Coren, *Capt.* Isaac, court-martial, cashiered, 480.

Corn, Pennsylvania specific supplies, 253; substitute for flour, 406, 409.

Cornell, *Gen.* Ezekiel, irregular court-martial, 254.

Cornwallis, Charles, *earl,* to South, 124.

Corny, Louis Dominique Ethis de, preparations for Rochambeau, 410, 413, 499, 499*n*; and accounts, 419; letter to, 496; answer to queries on supplies, 496–498.

Councils of war, on Southern campaign, 164, 195; on cooperation with Rochambeau, 482–485.

Countersigns, various forms of alphabetical agreement or sequence with parole, 2; guards' knowledge, 177; significant, 249, 283, 290, 292, 295, 296, 315, 318, 349, 486, 489, 502, 503; first use of letters only, 313. *See also* Watchword.

Courts-martial, of soldiers, 22, 65, 110, 221, 318, 343, 380, 381, 408, 434; Beatty, 32–34; of officers, 34, 64, 89, 112, 134–137, 142–145, 184, 261, 314, 346, 347; by Board of War, irregular, 51, 148, 258; sitting of divisional, 69; irregular, 89, 112, 290; of staff, 91, 98–101, 149, 269, 296; Shippen, 91, 109, 219, 360, 369, 377; Arnold, sentence, 127, 128*n*, 222–225; right of commander in state, 133; verdict disapproved and criticized, 135, 136, 314; detail, orders, 137, 240, 285, 348, 400, 423, 448; of state clothier, 141; by militia general as irregular, 254; challenge in, 290, 291; composition, 340, 343; of noncommissioned officer, 408.

Courts of inquiry, on killing of negro soldier, 81, 108, 109.

Cradick. *See* Cruduck.

Craig, *Capt.* John(?), militia horse patrol, 284.

Craig, *Capt.* Samuel, light corps, 191.

Craig, *Col.* Thomas, letter to, 63; Armstrong case, 64; brigaded, 190; officer of the day, 295, 369; maneuvers, 400, 433.

Craik, *Dr.* James, letter to, 410; medical preparations for Rochambeau, Newport, 410, 411, 419, 467.

Crain, Elijah, 144.

Crane, *Col.* John, provost marshal from regiment, 96; recruits, clothing, 127, 172; men on detail, 162; new arrangement, 277.

Crawford, Samuel, court-martial, capital penalty, pardon, 23, 34, 48.

Crimes and misdemeanors, unbecoming conduct, 64, 142–144, 184, 261, 296; breaking arrest, 142; disrespect to Congress, 142; illegal permit, 144, 145; forgery, 161, 319; officer's debt to soldier, 161, 162; officer's association with soldiers, 161, 162; disposing of arms, 319; employing soldiers, 346; bounty jumping, 381; officer and disorderly march of guard, 466. *See also* Absence; Abuse; Assault; Civil power; Courts-martial; Courts of inquiry; Depredations; Desertion; Disobedience; Graft; Liquor; Mutiny; Pardon; Provost; Punishments; Spies.

Crockery, price, 234.

Cruduck, William, detail, 162.

Cruger, Nicholas, letter to, 293; return to New York refused, 293.

Culper, Samuel, *sr.*, communication, 92; quits, 390.

Culper, Samuel, *jr.*, new line of communication, 40–42; quits, 390.

Cushing, *Capt.* Nathaniel, exploit, 343, 343*n*; service, 343*n*.

Damages. *See* Depredations.

Danbury, Conn., winter quarters, 103; troops to West Point, 181, 182; specific supplies, 318; militia rendezvous, 470*n*.

Darby, *Capt.* William John, parole in New York, 68.

Dartmouth College, Indian students, continental expense, 116.

Davies, *Col.* William, superintendence of recruits, 285, 289; letter to, 288; position for, 288.

Dayton, *Col.* Elias, brigaded, 190; letters to, 206, 379, 397, 445, 461; accounts for impressed provisions, 207; intelligence on British movements, letters, 226, 326, 379, 379*n*, 397; detachment, advanced line, position, 291, 344, 440, 461, 462; intercourse with the enemy, 445, 446; on British advance, 486*n*.

Dayton, *Capt.* Jonathan, on British advance, letter, 486*n*.

Dean, Nicholas, removing, 231.

Dean, prize, 276*n*, 349.

Deane, ——, parole, 43, 43*n*.

Deane, *Maj.* John, at court-martial, 196, 212; service, 196*n*; quarters, 282.

Defiance, H. M. S., loss, 145.

De Hart, John (?), property and military works, 386.

De Hart, *Lieut. Col.* William, Shippen trial, 109; officer of the day, 339.

De Lancey, *Col.* James, raid on, 343*n*.

Delaware, quota, 82; specific supplies, 156*n*; flour supply, 438; militia quota, rendezvous, 470*n*. *See also* next titles.

Delaware, H. M. S., at New York, 393.

Delaware, president of. *See* Rodney, Caesar.

Delaware Regiment, clothing, 114; officer, 136*n*; soldier court-martialed, 197; to South, 198, 257, 301; appointments to, 501.

Delaware River, preparation of boats, 424.

Delight, H. M. S., 226, 393.

Depredations, at winter cantonment, 73. *See also* Plunder.

Desertion, enlistment of British, in artificer corps, 2; pursuit by officers, 20*n*, 147; trials, penalty, 65, 221, 318, 343, 380, 408; seduction, penalty, 197, 389; pardon on surrender, futility, 236, 281; Virginia troops, 287; civilian countenancing, 311; enemy propaganda, text, 432, 432*n*; proclamation on Massachusetts act, 462, 462*n*; to privateers, 463. *See also* Absence without leave.

Detail. *See* Fatigue; Guards.

Detroit, plans against, 74, 75, 112.

Dexter, *Capt.* John Singer, return to camp, 146; service, 146*n*.

Dickinson, Philemon, coach for Washington, 178.

Dimity, gift to Washington, 328.

Dinners, headquarters, 49; by civilian declined, 293.

Discharges, unfit men, 4, 63; carrying off arms, 9, 309, 507; alarm over number, 10; state action on right to, illegal claims, 28–31, 43, 346; claims, adjustments, 192; of enlisted servant, 247. *See also* Punishments (officers cashiered); Resignation.

Discipline, general officers, duties and example, reproof, 5, 6, 71–74, 104. *See also* Crimes; Disobedience; Drill.

Disobedience to orders and neglect of duty, by officers, hindrance, 17, 60, 134.

Divisions, in 1780, 190.

Dodge, *Lieut.* Samuel, movement of brigade, 442; service, 442*n*.

Dorrance, Frances, 229*n*.

Douw, Volkert Pieterse, Indian students at Dartmouth, 116.

Draft, reliance on, 311; need for 1780, amount, 417, 418, 457, 469, 483.

Dragoons. *See* Cavalry.

Drill, distribution of regulations, 3, 24; spring order, 214; parade, 269; battalion maneuvers, assignment of officers, 269, 276, 277, 283, 350, 359, 375, 395, 422, 423, 433, 451, 467, 477; before La Luzerne, 297; order for general, 349; field officers to attend, 369. *See also* Inspector general.

Drums, need, 46. *See also* Music.

Duane, James, letters to, 353, 358, 478; Confederation, letter, 353, 353*n*; Washington on relations, 354; and committee on Rochambeau cooperation, 358; committee on army distress, 432*n*; promotion of McLane, 478, 479.

Dubois, *Col.* Lewis, "late" command, 450.

Du Bouexic, Louis Urbaine. *See* Guichen.

Dubuysson des Aix, *Lieut. Col.* Charles François, to South, position, 279.

Duer, William, French service, guard, 10.

Duff, *Lieut.* Henry, Howard trial, 136; service, 136*n*.

Dunham, Azariah, New Jersey supplies, 50; letters to, 125, 219, 230; flour scarcity, 121, 125; meat shortage, 220, 227, 230.

Du Portail, *Gen.* Louis le Bèque (*chevalier* Derford), letter to, 163; to South, recommendation to Lincoln, 163, 178; Nivens, 333.

Durkee, *Col.* John, brigaded, 190.

Du Rousseau de Fayolle. *See* Fayolle.

Duties, plan for, 354.

Earhart, John, court-martial, capital penalty, pardon, 343, 422*n*.

East Windsor, Conn., winter quarters, 18*n*.

Easton, Pa., specific supplies, 253; militia rendezvous, 470*n*.

Edgar, *Capt.* David, dragoon clothing, 86, 92.

Edminson. *See* Edmiston.

Edmiston, Samuel, wagonmaster, court-martial, 212.

Edwards, *Maj.* Evan, at court-martial, 221; service, 221*n*; officer of the day, 467.

Edwards, Timothy, Indian students at Dartmouth, 116; office, 116*n*.

Elbert, *Gen.* Samuel, exchange, 45; service, 45*n*.

Elizabethtown, N. J., protection, 461, 487; British landing, 487, 493. *See also* Advanced line.

Ellery, William, committee on cartel, 189*n*; letter to, 241; local protection, 241.

Elliott, *Col.* Robert, at court-martial, 434.

Ellsworth, Oliver, committees: instructions to committee of cooperation, 211*n*; army distress, 432*n*.

Embezzlement. *See* Graft.

Emerson, *Capt.* Amos, letter to, 147*n*; resignation, 147*n*.

Enfield, Conn., winter quarters, 18*n*.

Engineers, officer, 333*n*; preparations for 1780 campaign, 460. *See also* Du Portail; Fortifications.

English, Joseph, court-martial, 381.

Equipments, waste, 4, 6, 62; cavalry, needs, issue, 85, 91, 149, 167, 168, 280–282; general inspection, 305; returns on need, issue, 407, 408. *See also* Military stores.

Estaing, Charles Henry Hector, *comte* d', vicissitudes, 78.

Estates, Mercer affairs, 246, 392.

Estherton, Pa., specific supplies, 253.

Ethis de Corny. *See* Corny.

European affairs, and American Revolution, 101, 123.

Eustis, *Maj.* Benjamin, Shippen trial, 369.

Evans, Emanuel, court-martial, capital penalty, pardon, 65, 422*n*.

Exchange. *See* Prisoners of war.

Execution, orders, pardon, 22, 23, 422, 422*n*.

Express, exceptions to discontinuance, 81, 119; wagoners as, 119; with Rochambeau, 471.

Fairfax, George William, American agent, 66.

Fairlie, *Maj.* James, Steuben's aide, 369.

Fanning, *Col.* Edmund, regiment to South, 195, 197.

Farrington, Conn., winter quarters, 18*n*.

Fascines, collection and making, 256, 308, 364, 365, 413, 414, 441, 466, 478.

Fast day, order, 146, 225.

Fatigue, detail, 105, 313, 336, 345, 400, 433, 477; shoemaking, 110; coopers, 134; tentmaking, 162; recall, 221, 240; road repairs, 260; rotation, 337. *See also* Fascines.

Fayolle, Jean Pierre du Rousseau de, duel, 373; Lafayette's aide, 373*n*; despatches to Rhode Island, 403, 404.

Feltman, *Lieut.* William, paymaster, 360; service, 360*n*.

Field officers, names on returns, 2; officers of the day, 95; at drill, 369.

Fifes, need, 46. *See also* Music.

Finances, prepared information for enemy, 83; crisis, military effect, 322, 382, 420, 434; new plan, 323; British war advantage, 436; French and Spanish situation, 437. *See also* Accounts; Funds; Money; Prices; Requisitions; Taxation.

Finney, David, letter to, 328; gift to Washington, 328.

Fires, at West Point, 8, 17; at Fort Schuyler, 374.

First Artillery, adjutant, 250; officer, 389*n*. *See also* Harrison, Charles.

First Dragoons. *See* White, Anthony Walton.

Fish, *Maj.* Nicholas, letter to, 146; communication of general officers, 146; officer of the day, 260, 321; service, 260*n*; at parade, 269.

Fishkill, N. Y., deserters, 147; militia rendezvous, 470*n*.

Fitzhugh, *Cornet* Peregrine, parole and exchange question, 54, 201, 222; letter to, 222.

Fitzhugh, William, letter to, 54.

Fitzrandolph, *Capt.* Nathaniel, exchange, 119, 302, 305; service, 119*n*.

Flag of truce, conveying exchanged prisoners, 242.

Flags, need, 46; in maneuvers, 375, 423.

Fleury, *Lieut. Col.* François Louis Teisseydre, *marquis* de, extension of leave, 378.

Flint, Royal, letter to, 158; Connecticut supplies, 158.

Floridas, Spanish plans and operations, 56, 57, 93, 218, 263.

Flour, scarcity, urge for supply, substitutes, limited ration, 125, 146, 220, 228, 332, 333, 360; Pennsylvania specific supply, 253; guard of exposed, moving, 292, 302, 318, 326, 344; for West Point, 333; failure of transportation, 414; for Fort Schuyler, 415, 420, 425, 430; sources of army supply, 438. *See also* next title; Provisions.

Flour mills, guard, 133.

Flower, *Lieut. Col.* Benjamin, letters to, 15, 79; returns, 15; reenlistments, 79.

Flower, *Capt.* Samuel, resignation, 67.

Food. *See* Provisions.

Forage, alarming scarcity, appeal to New Jersey legislature, 50, 94; New Jersey supply, 50, 52; in specific supplies system, 50*n*, 138, 151–155, 156*n*, 157*n*, 158, 159, 253, 317, 318; general orders on conserving, 95; estimated need for 1780 campaign, 152, 457; pasturage, 156, 156*n*; officers' accounts, 395; graft, 452; impressment near camp, 504.

Ford, *Lieut. Col.* Benjamin, regimental command, 176.

Ford, Timothy, wounded, 486*n*.

Foreign relations. *See* French alliance; nations by name.

Foreign volunteers, minor, 113, 176, 279. *See also* Armand; Du Portail; Fleury; Kalb; Kosciuszko; Lafayette; Steuben.

Foreman. *See* Furman.

Forgery, by officer, 161; trial, penalty, 319.

Forman, Aaron, flour for army, 125.

Fort Pitt, reduced force, 74, 111; repair of arms, 111, 113; military stores, 111, 112; boats lost, 113; specific supplies, 253. *See also* Brodhead, Daniel.

Fort Schuyler, fire, 374; proposed militia garrison, 384, 389, 409; scarcity of provisions, supply, 406, 409, 415, 420, 425, 429, 430, 449; British threat, 429, 449.

Fortifications, advanced line works, 373, 386, 440. *See also* Fascines; "Fort" titles; West Point.

Forty-fourth Foot, British, embarkation, 385.

Forty-second Foot, British, to South, 195, 197, 226, 299.

Fossil, Christopher, court-martial, 290.

Foster, *Dr.* Isaac, letter to, 174; public clothing, 174.

Four Corners, N. Y., British raid, 9.

Fourth Artillery. *See* Procter, Thomas.

Fourth Dragoons, needed arms and equipment, 85, 91; clothing, 90, 92*n*; officer, 193; recruiting, dismounted men, natives, 194. *See also* Moylan, Stephen.

France, financial situation, 437. *See also* French alliance.

Franklin, Thomas, 69.

Frazier, *Rev.* Hugh, release, 475.

French alliance, guard for mast cutters refused, 10; military supplies, 70; clothing, 75, 78, 149. *See also* Foreign volunteers; La Luzerne; Navy, French; Rochambeau; West Indies.

French army. *See* Rochambeau.

Frontier, New York militia, 253; problem of protection, 405. *See also* Detroit; Fort Pitt; Indians; Mohawk Valley.

Fry, Windsor, court-martial, capital penalty, 254, 434, 461.

Funds (military chest), depleted, crisis, 2, 23*n*, 277*n*, 294, 308, 330; shortage and recruiting, 280. *See also* Accounts; Specie.

Funeral, military Masonic, 282.

Furloughs, state interference, 92; field officers, 109; winter officers', 183. *See also* Absence without leave; Leave of absence.

Furman, Moore, impressment of transportation, 266.

Gabions, collection and construction, 256, 308, 332, 413, 414, 466.

Gake. *See* Gayke.

Galatea, H. M. S., at New York, 226, 393.

Galvan, *Maj.* William, light corps command, 191; liaison with Rochambeau, 368, 372, 375; letter to, 375.

Galvez, *Gov.* Bernardo de, countersigns honoring, 489.

Gamble, James, securing stores, 23; office, 23*n*; hides and tallow, 75; scarcity, 125, 228; guard, 423.

Gansevoort, *Col.* Peter, absence, 5; unallowable soldier servants, 5; brigaded, 190; officer of the day, 395; at court-martial, 400, 448, 451, 466; maneuvers, 423, 433; service, 433*n*.

Gardiner, *Maj.* Valentine, on parole in New York, 28, 62.

Gates, *Gen.* Horatio, letter to, 473; active service, 473.

Gauthier de Murnans. *See* Murnans.

Gayke, Samuel, detail, 162.

General officers, orders and enforcement, duties, example, lack, 5, 6, 71–74; rank, 94; honors, 95. *See also* Commander in chief; Councils of war.

General orders, general officers and enforcement, 71–74; issue and communication, 103, 146, 282, 448. — (*Morristown: 1780, February*): returns, books, pardons, whipping, 2; punishment, 3; order and discipline, waste, 5; spontoons, 7; rum for guards, 15; unfit arms, camp guards, damp huts, returns of nonstate corps, officers' neglect of duty, 16; preserving stores, returns on guards, 22; court-martial, execution, 22; staff officers at grand parade, court-martial, Beatty, respite, 32; burying carcases, pardon, drunkenness, 34; camp guards parade, 47; pardon, 48; guard huts, 59; returns on needed clothing, court-martial, 59; (*March*): muster department, courts-martial, 64; guards and parade, 65; sitting of courts-martial, provost-marshal, 69; clothing needs, 70; detail, returns on musical equipments, 75; returns on quartermaster department property, court of inquiry, 80; forage scarcity, camp roads, camp police, honors to officers, 95; officers of the day, provost marshal, 96; main guard, quartermaster department property, communication of general orders, 102; fatigue detail, guards relief, brigade commanders to headquarters, 105; clothing distribution, court of inquiry, 108; courts-martial, 109; books, clothing distribution, 114; Ireland, St. Patricks Day, 120; detail to Commander in Chief's Guard, 126; guards at flour mills, 133; coopers, court-martial, 134; hospital superintendent, court-martial, 141; alarm guns, 147; medical stores, courts-martial, tent making, 160; wounded, alert, arms and ammunition, 162; regimental command, parole and countersigns to guards, 176; court-martial, 184; (*April*): shoes, 196; court-martial, 196; court-martial, 212; drill, officers' pikes, 214; guards, details recalled, court-martial, 221; Arnold trial, Fast, 222; main guard, 232; hides and tallow, 233; staff appointment, court-martial, details recalled, 239; Shippen trial, suspicious strangers, 240; guard, riding horse returns, duty

of brigade majors, old clothing accounts, adjutant general, 248; Commander in Chief's Guard, adjutant, 249; court-martial, 260; officer transferred, road repair, march of Maryland division, huts, court-martial, detail, detachment, 260; detachment, 268; parade, court-martial, 268; detachment, guard, fatigue detail, issue of general orders, Masonic funeral, 281; maneuvers, 283; court-martial, 285; maneuvers, court-martial, 290; honors by guard, 292; detachment, hospital superintendent, court-martial, 295; detachment, maneuvers, 296; review, La Luzerne, 296; detachment, inspection of arms, G. A. Washington commissioned, 305; fatigue detail, 313; court-martial, guards, 314; liquidation of depreciation in pay, adjutant, 315; (*May*): court-martial, inspection, 318; guards, Sherburne's regiment dispersed, detail, prisoners, 319; guard, detail, 321; guard, fatigue detail, detached officers' accounts, 324; fatigue detail, 336; guards and fatigue parties, returns on officers' casualties, sanitation, 337; march warning, pardon, court-martial, 342; fatigue detail, advanced line detachment, guards, court-martial, 345; court-martial, 345; drill, maneuvers, 349; hides, 351; detachment, guards, bread issue, paymaster, court-martial, 359; court-martial, Steuben's aide, drill, 369; officers recalled, maneuvers, 374; Shippen trial, staff appointments, 377; court-martial, 380; maneuvers, 395; officers' forage accounts, 395; maneuvers, guards, fatigue, court-martial, provisions for guard, 400; maneuvers, 404; issue of arms, court-martial, 407; execution, 422; maneuvers, detail, 422; detail, 432; guards, fatigue detail, detachment, maneuvers, court-martial, 433; court-martial, 448; maneuvers, amnesty, court-martial, 451; (*June*): guard detail, court-martial, 466; maneuvers, 467; spontoons, 472; inspection, 476; maneuvers, guard and fatigue detail, 477; hospital superintendent, fatigue, 485; march orders, 486; battle line, 486; detachment, stragglers, position of army, guards, commands, 489; field returns, shoes, canteens, emergent rations, ammunition, commands, positions, 491; canteens, alarm, emergent rations, straggling, strangers, front line, headquarters guard, 502; shoes, straggling, summary punishment, tattoo, 503.

George III of Great Britain, speech on American affairs, 70.

Georgia. *See* Southern campaign.

Georgia Third Regiment, officer, 8*n*.

Gérard de Rayneval, Conrad Alexandre, voyage, mishap, 24*n*, 354; military stores, 24*n*.

Germain, *Lord* George, on war prospects, letter, 323*n*.

German Battalion, returns, 13; strength, 37*n*; officer, 192*n*; companies added, 302. *See also* Weltner, Ludowick.

Gervais, John Lewis, news on Charleston siege, 362.

Gibbs, *Maj.* Caleb, headquarters picket guard, 221; to welcome Lafayette, 341; letter written by, 473*n*; on British advance, letter, 486*n*.

Gibraltar, naval action off, 217*n*.

Gibson, *Col.* John, Brodhead's furlough, 113.

Gifts. *See* Presentations.

Gilman, *Lieut. Col.* Jeremiah, letter to, 147*n*; resignation, 147*n*.

Gilman, *Capt.* Nicholas, return to camp, 146; service, 146*n*.

Gimat, *Col.* Jean Joseph, *chevalier* de, light corps command, 191; liaison with Rochambeau, 402, 410.

Gist, *Gen.* Mordecai, councils of war on Southern campaign, 164*n*, 195*n*; orders courts-martial, 196, 212, 261; letters to, 205, 244; to South, 205, 244.

Gist, *Col.* Nathaniel, command in Virginia line, 288.

Glover, *Gen.* John, brigade, 190.

Godfrey, *Capt.-Lieut.* William Egerton, court-martial, 480; service, 480*n*.

Gontaut, Armand Louis de. *See* Lauzun.

Gordon, *Lieut.* Arthur, court-martial, 112; deserts, 112*n*.

Gordon, *Rev.* William, charges against Hamilton, 320, 322; letter to, 322.

Gouvion, *Lieut. Col.* Jean Baptiste, to main camp, 308, 364.

Graeme, R. D., letter possessed by, 443*n*.

Graft, commissary, 91, 98; defrauding soldiers of pay and bounty, 161; wagonmaster, 212; officer, 346; superintendent of horses, 452.

Graham, *Maj.* John, at irregular court-martial, 90; service, 90*n*.

Grain. *See* Corn; Flour; Forage.

"Grasshoppers," 443*n*.

Gratuity, purpose, 30.

Gravier, Charles. *See* Vergennes.

Gray, James, letter to, 100.

Greaton, *Col.* John, brigaded, 190; light corps command, 191.

Green, *Capt.* Ebenezer, as hostage, 93.

Greene, *Col.* Christoper, letters to, 44, 254, 365, 461; returns, 44; soldier court-martialed, 254; movements of regiment, 255, 461; making fascines, 365.

Greene, *Gen.* Nathanael, artificers under, 1; spontoons, 7; letters to, 23, 50, 52, 89, 96, 138, 151, 157, 200, 250, 413, 423, 459, 471; winter transportation, 23; returns, 44; forage scarcity, 50, 52; alarming condition of department 89, 93, 277*n*, 459; preparations for 1780

campaign, Rochambeau cooperation, 96–98, 396, 423, 459–461; movements, at Philadelphia, 137, 138, 151, 199; specific supplies, 138, 151; dragoon equipments, 149; movement of troops to South, 157, 199, 200, 226; transportation for moving army, 158; tent making, 162; Washington's choice as successor, 185*n*; Congress and conduct of department, antagonism, 185*n*; detachment for, 262; countersign honoring, 283; horses for French army, 413; department preparations as ruse, 460; Newport express, 471; collecting horses, 472; aides, 477*n*, 487; council of war on French cooperation, 482*n*; temporary line command, 487, 490.

Greene, *Mrs.* Nathanael, at headquarters, 152.

Greene, *Gov.* William, letters to, 35*n*, 160*n*, 172, 403, 411, 419, 499*n*; line troops for state, 172; preparations for Rochambeau, 403, 411, 419.

Grier, *Maj.* James, Shippen trial, 109, 369; officer of the day, 290; service, 290*n*.

Guard Regiment, British, to South, 226.

Guards, for cutters of French masts refused, 10; rum for, 15; in stormy weather, 16; returns, 22; staff officers at daily formation, 32; and parade, 47, 65, 66; huts, 59; honors to officers, 95; assignments to camp main, rotation, 102, 105, 232, 314, 319, 321, 337, 346, 360, 400, 433, 477; Morristown picket, 105; flour mill, 133; knowledge of countersigns, 177; headquarters picket, 221; clothing store, 248; officer's avoidance of duty, 261; for prisoners of war, 262, 466; honors to distinguished civilians, 292; cartridge allowance, 319; provisions, 401; hospital, 401*n*; special, 423; improper marching of main, 466; in field, 489. *See also* Commander in Chief's Guard; Countersigns; Officers of the day; Patrol.

Guichen, Louis Urbain du Bouexic, *comte* de, West Indies, 359; presence on coast desired, 373.

Guides and Pioneers, loyalist corps, 104*n*.

Gunby, *Col.* John, letter to, 126; state clothing for officers, 126; state clothier affair, 141*n*; brigade command, right to baggage wagon, 250.

Hackensack, N. J., British foray, 7.

Hadden, *Lieut.* James M., parole exchange, 201, 238.

Hait, *Lieut. Col.* Joseph, officer of the day, 472.

Half Moon Tavern, N. J., 467.

Halifax, N. S., French plans against, information sought, 361, 366, 367*n*; troops supposed for, 385, 396–398; force, 484.

Hallet, *Capt.* Jonathan, surprised, 271*n*.

Hamilton, *Lieut. Col.* Alexander, letters written by, 5*n*, 12*n*, 31*n*, 32*n*, 44*n*, 46*n*, 52*n*, 53*n*, 57*n*, 58*n*, 61*n*, 62*n*, 73*n*, 89*n*, 158*n*, 163*n*, 166*n*, 179*n*, 204*n*, 237*n*, 238*n*, 244*n*, 245*n*, 265*n*, 267*n*, 279*n*, 298*n*, 307*n*, 309*n*, 317*n*, 335*n*, 340*n*–342*n*, 358*n*, 373*n*, 377*n*, 379*n*, 384*n*, 388*n*, 391*n*, 393*n*, 395*n*, 397*n*, 411*n*, 440*n*, 442*n*, 443*n*, 459*n*, 461*n*, 464*n*, 485*n*, 496*n*, 499*n*, 506*n*; cartel negotiations, instructions, 61, 84, 87–89, 189*n*, 272*n*; letters to, 84, 320; Cruger, 293; Gordon's charges against, 320, 320*n*, 322; Papers, 320*n*; on New York brigade's march, letter, 443*n*.

Hamilton, *Lieut. Gov.* Henry, parole exchange refused, 201.

Hamilton, *Ensign* Henry, limited parole to New York, 475, 480.

Hamilton, *Maj.* James, officer of the day, 295; service, 295*n*.

Hammell, James, court-martial, capital penalty, 22, 23.

Hanby. *See* Hanly.

Hancock, Ebenezer, bounty money, 275.

Hand, *Gen.* Edward, fatigue detail, 105; Shippen trial, 109, 240, 314, 360, 369; light corps brigade, 191; councils of war: on Southern campaign, 164*n*, 195*n*; on Rochambeau cooperation, 482*n*; — officer of the day, 268, 296, 339; brigade on march, 486; battle line, 487; detachment to harass British advance, 490.

Hanly, James, court-martial, capital penalty, 380.

Harman, Pelatiah, pardon, 3.

Harman, William, pardon, 3.

Harmar, *Lieut. Col.* Josiah, at parade, 269.

Harnage, *Maj.* Henry, parole to New York, 201, 216.

Harrison, *Col.* Charles, new arrangement, 277; Maryland companies to regiment, 277–279; companies to South, 279.

Harrison, *Lieut. Col.* Robert Hanson, letters written by, 9*n*, 13*n*–15*n*, 20*n*, 21*n*, 35*n*, 37*n*, 53*n*, 60*n*, 61*n*, 75*n*, 79*n*, 85*n*, 111*n*, 114*n*, 115*n*, 122*n*, 128*n*, 146*n*, 156*n*, 160*n*, 171*n*, 182*n*, 193*n*, 196*n*, 200*n*, 213*n*, 227*n*, 228*n*, 230*n*, 231*n*, 239*n*, 253*n*, 274*n*, 279*n*, 287*n*–289*n*, 293*n*, 295*n*, 302*n*, 311*n*–313*n*, 323*n*, 324*n*, 326*n*, 328*n*, 331*n*, 344*n*, 355*n*, 362*n*, 363*n*, 367*n*, 383*n*, 385*n*, 402*n*, 404*n*, 413*n*, 415*n*, 416*n*, 420*n*, 421*n*, 424*n*–427*n*, 447*n*, 448*n*, 450*n*, 462*n*, 463*n*, 470*n*–472*n*, 489*n*, 491*n*, 493*n*, 494*n*, 499*n*, 502*n*, 508*n*; letters: on substitute enlistment, 49*n*; on cartel negotiations, 117*n*; on clothing for officers, 127*n*; on specific supplies, 138*n*; on state clothier, 141*n*; on enlisted servant, 248*n*; on militia patrol, 284*n*, 285*n*; on dinner invitation, 293*n*; on detail, 401*n*; — Washington's chancery suit, 246.

Harrisons Purchase, N. Y., post, 104.

Hartford, Conn., specific supplies, 318.

Hartley, *Col.* Thomas, officer, 316*n*.

Hastings, Francis Rawdon-Hastings, *marquis* of, corps to South, 226, 264.

Hats, on hand, 59*n*. *See also* Caps.

Havana, Florida operations, 56, 93.

Haverford College, material from, 32.

Hawker, *Capt.* Earle, parole to New York, 201, 216.

Hay, *Lieut. Col.* Samuel, court-martial, reprimand, 144, 145; service, 144*n*; at court-martial, 260; officer of the day, 305, 348, 374, 395, 476; maneuvers, 422.

Hay, *Lieut. Col.* Udny, express, 81, 118; letters to, 118, 355, 364, 379, 425; Washington's appreciation, 119; Hudson River chain, 132; bears letter, 308; invisible ink laboratory, 350, 355; repair of boats, 364, 495; platform planks, 379; provisions relief, 414, 420, 425; Lafayette's baggage, 451; purchase of horses, 496.

Hay. *See* Forage.

Hazen, *Col.* Moses, clothing, 46, 108; complaint on commissary, 91, 98; Shippen trial, 109, 110; brigaded, 190; position in field, front line, 492, 503.

Head of Elk, Md., militia rendezvous, 470*n*.

Headquarters, Morristown, 1; La Luzerne, 24, 79, 204, 284, 293, 297, 334, 335; dinners, 49; congressional committee, 211*n*, 321*n*; gifts, 219*n*, 234, 349; picket guard, 221; wine, 267, 352; Springfield (Shorthills), 486. *See also* Commander in Chief's Guard; Military secretaries.

Health, airing huts, 337. *See also* Medical department; Police.

Heard, Gen. Nathaniel, continuance of militia activity, 461*n*; letter to, 492; British advance, 492.

Heath, *Gen.* William, fires at West Point, letter, 8, 17; letters to, 13, 17, 27, 42, 67, 68, 171, 274, 360, 467; Massachusetts brigades' returns, 13, 27; possible British threat, 42; new arrangement of Massachusetts troops, 67; own furlough, 171; clothing for recruits, 172; Massachusetts recruiting, 256, 274; on prize, letter, 276*n*; Halifax information, 361; to advise Rochambeau, 468.

Henderson, *Capt.* John, light corps, 191.

Hendricks, John, trade with the enemy, 340*n*.

Henley, *Col.* David, bears letter, 322.

Hermione, French warship, 392*n*.

Herrindeen, Thomas, punishment, 3.

Hides, securing, 75; shoe-exchange irregularities, 110; collection, 233; handling, 351.

Highlands. *See* West Point.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, material from, 300, 312, 504.

Hoaksley, Robert, exchange, 238; office, 238*n*.

Hoffman, Nicholas, loyalist refugee, 421*n*.

Hoffman, *Mrs.* Nicholas, letter to, 421.

Hogun, *Gen.* James, at Charleston, 165.

Holker, John, Rochambeau preparations, 396.

Hollingsworth, *Col.* Henry, flour scarcity, 150; office, 150*n*.

Holten, Samuel, committee on depreciation of pay, 315*n*.

Hoogland, *Capt.* Jeronimus, slander of superior, trial, 341, 343.

Hooper, William, punishment, 3.

Hoops, *Lieut.* Adam, court-martial, 261, 262; service, 261*n*.

Horses, returns, 80; wintering, 95; officers' rights, 149; returns on public riding, 248; for French army, price limit, 413, 497; superintendent, trial for graft, 451, 452; collection for campaign, 472, 474, 478; purchase, 496. *See also* Artillery; Cavalry; Forage; Transportation.

Hospitals, Basking Ridge, guard, 105, 401*n*; superintendents, 141, 295, 486; preparations for Rochambeau, 410, 411, 467. *See also* Medical department.

Houston, William Churchill, committee on cartel negotiations, 189*n*.

Howard, *Lieut. Col.* John Eager, court-martial, reprimand, 49, 134–137; transfer, 260; at court-martial, 261.

Howe, *Gen.* Robert, letters to, 81, 103, 105, 106, 131, 181, 193, 255, 257, 308, 332, 343, 363, 412, 413, 442, 450, 463, 472, 477, 494; court-of-inquiry affair, 81; proposed information for spy, 82, 83; Connecticut protection, 103, 104; West Point construction, 104; British activity, 105–107, 131–133; clothing, 133; court-martial authority, 133; reenforcements, New York brigade, 181, 182, 193, 442, 496, 500, 501; division, 190; campaign preparations, 220, 413; Arnold trial, 222; and southern command, 258; proposed demonstration, 308; on provisions from Connecticut, letter, 333*n*; and active command, 412; scarcity, relief, impressment, 413, 463, 472; aides, 415*n*, 477*n*; Lafayette's baggage, 450; Sir Henry Clinton's return, possible British designs, 463, 494; horses, 474, 478.

Hubbard, Nehemiah, dragoon equipments, 86, 167, 168, 281; letter to, 167.

Hubley, *Lieut. Col.* Adam, brigaded, 190; officer of the day, 296, 337, 380, 433; maneuvers, 404, 451.

Hudson River, frozen, possible movements on, 7, 18, 40; army position in 1780 campaign, 97; chain, strengthening, 131; march by, 442, 449. *See also* West Point.

Huger, *Gen.* Isaac, defeat, 354*n*.

Hughes, *Lieut.* John, adjutant, resigns, 316.

Hull, *Maj.* William, promotion, rank, 17.

Humpton, *Col.* Richard, at court-martial, 33, 134, 141, 143, 144; brigaded, 190; maneuvers, 477.

Hunt, *Lieut.* Thomas, court-martial, 466; service, 466*n*.

Hunting frocks, on hand, 59*n*.

Huntington, *Lieut. Col.* Ebenezer, at court-martial, 184, 240, 260; officer of the day, 260, 313, 402; at parade, 269; maneuvers, 395, 423.

Huntington, *Gen.* Jedidiah, letters to, 175, 206, 242, 267, 279, 284, 287, 293, 326 (two), 336, 340, 344, 355, 355*n*, 366; officers on recruiting service, 175, 217; brigade, 190; councils of war: on Southern campaign, 195*n*; on Rochambeau cooperation, 482*n*; — advanced line command, period of service, British threats, 205, 267, 280, 326, 327, 345, 355, 355*n*, 366; clothing for advanced line, 279; militia horse patrol, 284; Washington and La Luzerne visit, 287; visit to main cantonment, 293; on trade with the enemy, 340*n*; officer of the day, 407, 472.

Huntington, Samuel. *See* President of Congress.

Huts, damp, 16; for guard, 59; police, 95; vacating without damage, 261; airing, 337.

Imports, arms, 24. *See also* Duties.

Impressment, New Jersey, state payment, 206; boats, 242; transportation for provisions, 266, 267, 463, 465; forage near camp, 504.

Indians, commissioners for northern department, 116; students at Dartmouth, expenses, 116; raids, Mohawk, Wyoming, 169, 228, 253, 301, 405; proposed address on French Canadian expedition, 387. *See also* Frontier.

Infelt, Joseph, court-martial, capital penalty, pardon, 343, 422*n*.

Ink, invisible, supply, preparation, 237, 350, 355.

Inspector general department, muster department added, 64, 78; inspection of nonstate corps, 77; general inspection, 477. *See also* Brigade majors and inspectors; Drill; Steuben; Subinspectors.

Intelligence, specie, 358; concerning Halifax, 361. *See also* Spies.

Intercourse with the enemy, improper, by commissary of prisoners of war, 33; army supplies from British sources, 212–214; strict regulation, 445, 446. *See also* Flag of truce; Intelligence; Passes; Prisoners of war; Trade with the enemy.

Invalid corps, transfer to, 4; officer, 378*n*.

Ireland, disturbances, 101; trade freedom, 120, 124.

Irish Volunteers, British corps, to South, 299.

Irvine, *Gen.* William, rank, 94; brigade, 190; officer of the day, 281, 297, 339, 422, 477; council of war on Rochambeau cooperation, 482*n*.

Jackson, *Col.* Henry, soldier court-martialed, 3; letter to, 9; arms of discharged men, 9; clothing, 63, 108; brigaded, 190; officers, 239, 292*n*, 342*n*; officer of the day, 249, 315, 349, 374, 400, 466; at parade, 269; men from Sherburne's regiment, 319; maneuvers, 423; regiment added to Massachusetts line, 462.

Jackson, *Col.* Michael, new arrangement, 67; letter to, 133*n*; brigaded, 190.

Jay, *Sir* James, letters to, 237, 350; invisible ink, letter, 237, 237*n*, 350, 355; gunnery experiments, 332, 350.

Jay, John, voyage, mishap, arrival, 24*n*, 351, 354.

Jefferson, *Gov.* Thomas, letters to, 19, 35*n*, 74, 160*n*, 262, 367, 439*n*; plan against Detroit, 74, 75; clothing, 263, 265; liaison with Rochambeau, 368.

Johnson, *Sir* John, Mohawk raid, 429, 449, 500.

Johnston, *Col.* Francis, court-martial ordered by, 23, 59; officer of the day, 110, 313, 345, 380, 452; letter to, 147; pursuit of deserters, 147; brigaded, 190; at parade, 269; maneuvers, 359, 422, 477.

Jones, ——, trade with the enemy, 441.

Jones, Allen, letter to, 20*n*.

Jones, *Capt.* Gibbs, regimenting company, 277.

Jones, *Capt.* John Paul, fleet supposed on coast, British search, 331, 393.

Jones, Joseph, letters to, 356, 452; and Rochambeau cooperation, 356–358; and crisis, letter, 453, 454*n*.

Judge advocate general, deputy, 239. *See also* Laurance, John.

Justice, Jacob, court-martial, capital penalty, 110.

Kakiat, N. Y., protection, 474.

Kalb, Johann, (*baron*) de, letters to, 60, 107, 117, 129, 148, 205, 215; advanced line command, quarters, 60, 117; and British activity, intelligence, 106–108, 129–131, 148; on signals, letter, 108*n*; councils of war on Southern campaign, 164*n*, 195*n*; to South, instructions, 199, 200, 205, 215, 265.

Kean, John, office, 336*n*; detail for, 486.

Kennedy, *Capt.* Archibald, coach for sale, 177; permitted trip to England, 243.

King, George, Morristown house, 249.

Kings American Regiment, to South, 195*n*.

Kings Carolina Rangers, to South, 195*n*.

Kingsbury, *Capt.* John, company regimented, 274, 277; service, 274*n*.

Knapp, *Maj.* Moses, letter to, 304; recruiting, 304; service, 304*n*.

Knox, *Gen.* Henry, Maryland artillery, 31; swords for noncommissioned officers, 76; clothing, 108; artillery for Fort Pitt, 112; councils of war: on Southern campaign, 164*n*, 195*n*; on Rochambeau cooperation, 482*n*; — letters to, 243, 276, 321, 443*n*; artillery to South, 243; cartridges, 276; reform in ordnance department, 321; artillery for New York brigade, 443*n*.

Knyphausen, *Baron* Wilhelm von, letters to, 61, 168, 470; cartel negotiations, 61; agents for prisoners, 168, 470; New Jersey expedition, 486–496, 500, 505, 507, 510.

Kosciuszko, *Col.* Thaddeus, letter to, 182; West Point works, 182.

La Balme, Mottin de, letter to, 113; certificate refused, 113.

La Brun, John, court-martial, 290.

Lafayette, *Gen.* Marie Joseph P. Y. R. G. du Motier, *marquis* de, letters to, 122, 341, 369, 386, 396; failure to receive Washington's letters, 122; light corps command, 191; return, welcome, 331, 335, 341, 348, 351, 352; parole in honor, 349; to Congress, 351, 352, 354; French recognition of American generalship, 352*n*; preparations for Rochambeau, plans, 369–373, 375, 386–388, 396, 397, 402, 413; aides, 373*n*, 402*n*, 451*n*; proposed Canadian proclamations, 386; La Touche-Tréville, 393; at camp, bears letters, 431; baggage, guard, 450; council of war on Rochambeau cooperation, 482*n*; battle line, 487.

Laffron, Thomas, 144.

La Luzerne, Anne César, *chevalier* de, letters to, 10, 301, 303, 311*n*, 334, 347, 359, 481; guard for mast cutters, 10; expected at camp, preparations, 24, 79, 204, 277*n*; cartel, 188; on crisis in army, letter, 211*n*; on Congress' fear of Washington, 211*n*; guard honors, 282, 292; at camp, on visit, letter, Washington on visit, general orders on, 284, 293, 297, 334, 334*n*, 335; visit to advanced line, 287; maneuvers before, 297; on Washington, letter, 335*n*; preparations for Rochambeau cooperation, Washington's promise, 396, 481, 482, 498; proclamation to Canadians, 476*n*.

Lamb, *Col.* John, Connecticut men in regiment, 53; men on detail, 162; new arrangement, 277; recruiting, 303.

Lambert, Francis, detail, 320.

Lancaster, Pa., prisoners of war, 69; specific supplies, 253.

Lane, *Maj.* Joseph, on prisoners of war, 8.

Lang, E. P., letter possessed by, 247*n*.

Langborn, *Maj.* William, letter to, 415*n*; Howe's aide, 415*n*.

Languedoc, French warship, capture, 78*n*.

La Rouerie, *Marquis* de. *See* Armand-Tuffin.

La Touche-Tréville, Louis René Madeline Lavassor, *vicomte* de, letters to, 392, 393; proposed cruise, 392–394; Lafayette's opinion, 393.

Laurance, John, Arnold trial, 128*n*.

Laurens, *Lieut. Col.* John, letter to, 298; Washington on relations, 300.

Lauzun, Armand Louis de Gontaut, *duc* de, horses for legion, 498.

Lavassor, Louis René Madeline. *See* La Touche-Tréville.

Leave of absence, ill officer, 25; wounded officer, 80; recall, 374; extension, 379. *See also* Absence; Furloughs.

Leavenworth, *Maj.* Eli, officer of the day, 432; maneuvers, 467.

Lebanon, Pa., specific supplies, 253.

Lee, *Maj.* Henry, returns, for recruiting data, 25, 39; letters to, 39, 258, 397, 508; New Jersey men in corps, 53; Virginia men, 75; corps to South, instructions, 179, 183, 199, 236, 238, 258; irregular promotion of officers, 234–236, 478, 479; letters to commander of corps, 183, 238, 245; corps halted, recall, speedy return, 397, 488, 508; to headquarters, 509.

Lee, *Gov.* Thomas Sim, letters to, 31, 35*n*, 37*n*, 101*n*, 102, 160*n*, 327; special exchange, 327.

Lemons, for headquarters, 349.

Leonard, *Lieut.* Nathaniel, hospital superintendent, relief, 141; service, 141*n*.

Lewis, Fielding, letters to, 66, 336; Fairfax agency, 66.

Lewis, Francis, letters to, 26, 348, 352; marine prisoners of war, 26; delicacies for headquarters, 349, 352.

Lewis, John, punishment, 3.

Lewis, *Col.* Morgan, provisions for Fort Schuyler, 406, 409, 425; platform planks, 379.

Library of Congress, French Transcripts, 211*n*; Tower Transcripts, 247*n*; Hamilton Papers, 320*n*; Madison Papers, 439*n*; British Transcipts, 476*n*; Rochambeau Papers, 498*n*.

Light Dragoons. *See* Provost.

Lighthall, Lancaster, court-martial, capital penalty, pardon, 380, 422*n*.

Ligonier, Pa., specific supplies, 253.

Lincoln, *Gen.* Benjamin, on prisoners of war, letter, 8; letters to, 55, 178, 263, 279, 306, 362; Du Portail, 178; Dubuysson, 279. *See also* Southern campaign.

Liquor, warning on drunkenness, 35. *See also* Rum; Wine.

Little, *Col.* Moses, bears letter, 115.

Livingston, *Col.* James, clothing, 108; brigaded, 190; at court-martial, 240, 260, 269, 285, 296; officer of the day, 305, 342, 377, 451; maneuvers, 359, 422, 467.

Livingston, Philip, committee of cooperation, 211*n*.

Livingston, Robert R., committees: instructions to committee of cooperation, 211*n*; Rochambeau cooperation, 358.

Livingston, Susanna (French), at home, protection, 344.

Livingston, *Gov.* William, letters to, 28, 35*n*, 53, 101, 119, 160*n*, 213*n*, 284, 304; state quota, 53; special exchange, 119; on recruiting, letter, 139*n*; supplies from British source, letter, 212*n*; militia horse patrol, 284.

Lloyds Neck, L. I., proposed raid, 332.

Long Island Historical Society, *Memoirs,* 234*n*.

Loring, Joshua, releasing chaplains, 202, 216.

Louisiana, Florida operations, 56.

Lovell, James, letter to, 70; information on foreign affairs, letter, 70, 70*n*.

Loyalists, corps to South, 104*n*, 195, 299; request refused, 293; refugees and passes, 421.

Lumber, army use of sawmill, 105; artillery platform planks, 365, 379, 413.

Lusk, *Capt.* William, light corps, 191; service, 192*n*.

Lyell, *Capt.* (John Lyle?), letter for, 260.

Lynes, Matthew, court of inquiry, 99, 101.

McCarter, *Dr.* Charles, court-martial, 296.

McCarty. *See* McCarter.

McClean, Charles, punishment, 3.

McClellan, *Capt.* John, court-martial, 59, 60; service, 59*n*.

McClellan, *Capt.* Joseph, light corps, 191; service, 192*n*.

McCormick, *Maj.* Henry, feared desertion to enemy, 336.

McCracken, *Maj.* Joseph, discharge of enlisted servant, 247; service, 247*n*.

McDonack, James, Pennsylvania soldier, 346.

McDonald, Angus, Mercer affairs, 246.

McDougall, *Gen.* Alexander, letters to, 98, 416; active service, 98; division, 190; orders to, countermand, 416; council of war on Rochambeau cooperation, 482*n*.

McFarland, *Lieut.* James, adjutant, 316.

McGee, James, Pennsylvania soldier, 346.

McGowan, *Capt.* John, paymaster, 378; service, 378*n*.

McHenry, James, letters written by, 9*n*, 19*n*, 20*n*, 25*n*, 40*n*, 50*n*, 66*n*, 69*n*, 71*n*, 83*n*, 89*n*, 98*n*, 107*n*, 117*n*, 119*n*, 120*n*, 133*n*, 139*n*, 148*n*, 151*n*, 158*n*, 159*n*, 172*n*–174*n*, 176*n*, 180*n*, 183*n*, 202*n*, 206*n*, 216*n*, 219*n*; letters: on St. Clair's plan, 43*n*; on paroles, 43*n*, 195*n*; on clothing, 127*n*, 175*n*; on deserters, 147*n*.

McLane, *Capt.* Allen, proposed irregular promotion, 234, 478, 479.

McLane, John, punishment, 3.

Madison, James, on dictatorial power in Pennsylvania, letter, 439*n*; Papers, 439*n*.

Magaw, *Col.* Robert, cartel plan, 189; brigaded, 190.

Magazines, dispersal, 83; for cooperation with Rochambeau, 496, 497. *See also* Commissary.

Maneuvers. *See* Drill.

Manning, Nathaniel, Mercer affairs, 246.

March, by land and river, 442, 449.

Maréchausée corps. *See* Provost.

Marine Committee. *See* Board of Admiralty.

Marines, commission sought, 444.

Marshall, *Col.* Thomas, brigaded, 190.

Martin, *Gov.* Josiah, in British southern expedition, 58.

Maryland, line quota, 82, 102; specific supplies quotas, 156*n*; flour supply, 438; militia quota, rendezvous, 470*n*. *See also* next titles.

Maryland, governor of. *See* Lee, Thomas Sim.

Maryland Artillery Companies, new arrangement, regimenting, 31, 277.

Maryland brigades, clothing, 114; state clothier affair, court-martial, 141, 269; troops in light corps, 191; to South, preparations, route, march, 198–200, 204, 205, 215, 226, 243, 244, 257, 261, 264, 270, 271, 301, 307, 309; clothing for officers, 269. *See also* Gist, Mordecai; Smallwood, William.

Maryland Fourth Regiment, officers, 196*n*, 282*n*; officer court-martialed, 261.

Maryland Historical Society, material from, 102, 328.

Maryland Second Regiment, officer court-martialed, 134–137; command, 176; officers, 196*n*, 261*n*, 282*n*.

Maryland Seventh Regiment. *See* Gunby, John.

Maryland Sixth Regiment. *See* Williams, Otho Holland.

Maryland Third Regiment, officer, 324*n*. *See also* Ramsay, Nathaniel.

Masonry, military funeral, 282.

Masons, at West Point, shoes, 183.

Massachusetts, line quota, 82; specific supplies quotas, 154, 156*n*; recruiting, officers detailed, 256, 257, 274; new Penobscot expedition, 270; constitution, Washington's comments, 298, 321; pay depreciation liquidation, 311; militia and New York frontier, 406; act on desertions, 462; militia quota, rendezvous, 470*n*. *See also* next titles.

Massachusetts, president of. *See* Powell, Jeremiah.

Massachusetts brigades, returns as basis for 1780 quota, 13, 27; new arrangement, 17, 67, 69, 128, 133*n*, 331, 473; clothing, 133; prevalence of resignations, 181, 414; troops in light corps, 191; distribution of levies, 275; Jackson's regiment added, 462. *See also* Glover, John; Nixon, John; Paterson, John.

Massachusetts Eighth Regiment, new arrangement, 67, 128, 133*n*, 331; light corps, 191. *See also* Jackson, Michael.

Massachusetts Eleventh Regiment, light corps, 191; officer, 304*n*. *See also* Tupper, Benjamin.

Massachusetts Fifteenth Regiment, light corps, 191. *See also* Bigelow, Timothy.

Massachusetts Fifth Regiment, new arrangement, 67, 331, 332; officers, 183*n*, 304*n*; light corps, 191. *See also* Putnam, Rufus.

Massachusetts First Regiment, light corps, 191; officers, 343*n*, 415*n*. *See also* Vose, Joseph.

Massachusetts Fourteenth Regiment, light corps, 191. *See also* Bradford, Gamaliel.

Massachusetts Fourth Regiment, officers, 183*n*, 292*n*, 342*n*; light corps, 191. *See also* Shepard, William.

Massachusetts Historical Society, material from, 14, 68, 172, 276, 362, 367, 468.

Massachusetts Ninth Regiment, light corps, 191; officers, 292*n*, 342*n*. *See also* Wesson, James.

Massachusetts Second Regiment, officer, 82*n*; light corps, 191. *See also* Bailey, John.

Massachusetts Seventh Regiment, light corps, 191; officers, 292*n*, 342*n*. *See also* Brooks, John.

Massachusetts Sixteenth Regiment, light corps, 191; officer, 342*n*; formed, 462. *See also* Jackson, Henry.

Massachusetts Sixth Regiment, light corps, 191. *See also* Nixon, Thomas.

Massachusetts Tenth Regiment, officers, 9*n*, 304*n*; light corps, 191. *See also* Marshall, Thomas.

Massachusetts Third Regiment, officers, 67, 82*n*; light corps, 191. *See also* Greaton, John.

Massachusetts Thirteenth Regiment, light corps, 191; officer, 415*n*. *See also* Smith, Calvin.

Massachusetts Twelfth Regiment, new arrangement, 67; light corps, 191. *See also* Sprout, Eben.

Masts, for French navy, 10*n*.

Mathews, *Col.* George, cartel plan, 189.

Mathews, John, letter to, 180. *See also* Committee of cooperation.

Matthews, John, pardon, 3.

Maxwell, *Gen.* William, fatigue detail, 105; exchange of regiments, 181; brigade, 190; council of war on Southern campaign, 164*n*, 195*n*; officer of the day, 268; letters to, 373, 388, 402, 440; advanced line command, position, works, letter, 373, 385, 388, 440, 440*n*, 490; seduction to desert, 389; liaison with Rochambeau, 402; letter to commander of brigade, 410; on Jones, letter, 441*n*; British advance, 500, 508, 510.

Mead, *Col.* John, line troops and local protection, 104; service, 104*n*.

Meade, *Lieut. Col.* Richard Kidder, letters written by, 11*n*, 47*n*, 94*n*, 98*n*, 164*n*, 193*n*, 211*n*, 229*n*, 230*n*, 243*n*, 244*n*, 250*n*, 268*n*, 272*n*, 276*n*, 292*n*, 294*n*, 295*n*, 312*n*, 318*n*, 326*n*, 327*n*, 365*n*, 366*n*, 386*n*, 390*n*, 409*n*, 424*n*, 444*n*, 446*n*, 496*n*, 506*n*, 509*n*; letters: on deserters, 20*n*; on penalty, 64*n*; on furlough, 80*n*; on general orders, 146*n*; on West Point construction, 183*n*; on moving prisoner, 231*n*; on maneuvers, 277*n*; on detachment, 291*n*; on resignation, 415*n*; on Lafayette's baggage, 451*n*.

Meat, barrels, repacking, 134; alarming scarcity, mutiny, 219, 227–230, 251, 330, 332, 406, 424–432, 434, 439*n*; impressment of transportation, 266, 267; for Fort Schuyler, 420, 421*n*. *See also* Cattle, Provisions.

Medical department, conditions, 49. *See also* Hospitals; Shippen, William; Sick; Surgeons.

Mehelm, *Col.* John, letter to, 110.

Meibom, *Maj.* Justus Christoph de, prisoner of war, 69.

Meigs, *Col.* Return Jonathan, letters to, 109, 424; return to camp, 109; brigaded, 190; officer of the day, 404; maneuvers, 423; mutiny, letter, 424, 424*n*, 429; at court-martial, 448.

Mentges, *Lieut. Col.* Francis, Shippen trial, 110; officer of the day, 268, 314, 349; maneuvers, 423.

Mercenaries, prisoners of war, pay, 69; to South, 195, 197, 226. *See also* Convention troops.

Mercer, George, affairs, 32, 392.

Mercer, James, suit, 246, 247.

Mercereau, John, letter to, 259; intelligence, 259.

Mifflin, Thomas, report on quartermaster department, 185*n*, 186*n*.

Military chest. *See* Funds.

Military conductors, discarded arms, 306.

Military secretaries and aides, for major generals, 68*n*, 157*n*, 369, 373*n*, 402*n*, 451*n*, 477*n*, 487. *See also* Hamilton, Alexander; Harrison, Robert Hanson; McHenry, James; Meade, Richard Kidder; Tilghman, Tench.

Military stores, deputy commissary, 22*n*; Fort Pitt, 111, 112. *See also* Arms; Equipments.

Militia, British activity, proposed call (March), 106; signals, 107, 131, 193, 255; New Jersey horse patrol, retention, 107, 268, 284, 288, 461*n*; New Jersey, and line recruiting, 140; weakness, evil of dependence, 198, 418, 505; preparation for call, need for 1780 campaign, organization, 220, 399, 457, 458, 468; for New York defense, frontier posts, 253, 301, 384, 389, 405, 406; making fascines, 364, 466, 478; question of immediate call (June), 458; ammunition, 478; New Jersey, in resistance of British advance, 487, 488, 490, 492, 494, 495, 500, 505, 508, 510. *See also* Draft.

Miralles, Juan de, Florida operations and British plans, letter, 56–58, 100; letters to, 57, 100, 218; gifts to headquarters, 219*n*, 234; countersigns honoring, 290, 315; illness, death, funeral, 301, 303, 311, 316, 347; Washington's tribute, 317.

Misdemeanors. *See* Crimes.

Mitchel, *Capt.* Alexander, court-martial, 314; service, 314*n*.

Mitchell, *Col.* John, letters to, 128, 177, 233; Washington's coach, 128, 129, 129*n*, 177, 178, 233; transportation for French, 496.

Mittens, on hand, 59*n*.

Mohawk Valley, N. Y., militia protection, 253, 301, 384, 389, 405, 406; peril, Johnson's invasion, line troops for, 405, 406, 409, 429, 442, 443, 449, 496, 500. *See also* Fort Schuyler.

Moore, *Maj.* James, court-martial, reprimand, 142, 143; detachment, 268, 282; service, 268*n*; officer of the day, 324, 433; maneuvers, 359; at court-martial, 401.

Moore, *Maj.* Thomas Lloyd, light corps command, 191; advanced line detachment, 295, 360, 365*n*; officer of the day, 336; letter to, 401; proposed raid, 401.

Morehead, *Capt.* Samuel, corps strength, 37*n*.

Morris County, N. J., extortion on soldiers, 85*n*.

Morristown, N. J., headquarters, letters and orders from, 1–488; possible British plans against, 105–108, 130, 145, 147, 148, 162, 163; ball, 261; militia rendezvous, 470*n*. *See also* Winter quarters.

Mottin de la Balme. *See* La Balme.

Moylan, John, list of articles of clothing on hand, letter, 59*n*; letter to, 127; artillery clothing, 127.

Moylan, *Col.* Stephen, letters to, 14, 18, 39, 90, 167, 219, 280; returns data on men from different states, state provision, 3, 14, 19, 25, 39, 101, 102, 295; winter quarters, state act, 18*n*; Shippen trial, 91, 291; clothing, arms, and equipments, 167, 168, 280, 282; recruits, 219; officer, 280; to main army in field, 495.

Muhlenberg, *Gen.* Peter, letter to, 285; Virginia recruiting, 285–287, 289.

Murnans, *Maj.* Jean Bernard Gauthier de, ill, 364; fascines, 364, 466.

Murray, *Lieut. Col.* John, officer of the day, 315, 404; service, 315*n*; at court-martial, 343; maneuvers, 433.

Music, band at execution, 23; musicians and rank and file, 63; returns on equipments, 75. *See also* Drums; Fifes.

Muster department, merged in inspection department, 64, 78.

Mutiny, distress and, of Connecticut line, other threats, 424–431, 434, 451.

Myers, Christian, pardon, 3.

Natchez, Spanish capture, 56; proposed American expedition, 111.

Navarro, *Gov.* Diego José de, letter to, 316.

Navigation. *See* next titles; Boats; Privateering; Prizes.

Navy, American, sentence to service, 65; proposed expedition, troops for, 114, 173; at Charleston, 165; exchange of prisoners of war, officers, 251; rumor of Jones's fleet on coast, 331, 393. *See also* Board of Admiralty; Marines; Prizes.

Navy, British, Southern campaign, 165, 371; defeats of Spanish, 169, 217*n*, 241; at New York, movements, 370, 393, 394, 484; importance of movements, 379, 379*n*; possible West Indies action, 479. *See also* Sea power.

Navy, French, masts for, 10*n*; proposed coast cruise of frigate, 393, 394; possible West Indies action, 479. *See also* Estaing; Guichen; Sea power; Ternay.

Neglect of duty. *See* Disobedience.

Negroes, soldier, inquiry into killing, 81, 108, 109; in South Carolina quota, 82.

Netherlands, attitude, 71.

Neutral Ground, N. Y., British raid, 9, 18; possible British plans, American offset, 40, 42, 44, 106, 107; winter patrol, 104; Cushing's exploit, 343*n*; bandits, 451; impressment of cattle, 463.

New arrangement. *See* Rank.

New Brunswick, N. J., flour, guard, peril, 292, 302, 318, 326*n*, 344.

New Fairfield, Conn., specific supplies, 318.

New Hampshire, line quota, 82; specific supplies, 160; pay depreciation liquidation, 311; militia quota, rendezvous, 470*n*. *See also* next titles.

New Hampshire, president of. *See* Weare, Meshech.

New Hampshire brigade, clothing, 133; troops in light corps, 191; to West Point, 181, 182, 193. *See also* Poor, Enoch.

New Hampshire First Regiment, officers, 146*n*, 147*n*; light corps, 191. *See also* Cilley, Joseph.

New Hampshire Historical Society, material from, 160, 470*n*.

New Hampshire Second Regiment, light corps, 191; officer, 212*n*. *See also* Reid, George.

New Hampshire Third Regiment, officer, 146*n*; light corps, 191. *See also* Scammell, Alexander.

New Jersey, state action on soldiers claiming right to discharge, 28–31, 43; provisions and forage from, 50, 52, 94; line quota, 82, 101; exactions on troops, 85; state interferences on furloughs, 92; militia signals, 107, 131; militia horse patrol, retention, 107, 268, 284, 288, 461*n*; recruiting, bounty, 139–141, 170; quota of specific supplies, 154, 156*n*, 460; state payment for impressed provisions, 206; militia preparation for call, 220; road repairs, 260; impressment of transportation, 266, 267; British forage, 364, 365; flour supply, 438; tavern, 467; militia quota, rendezvous, 470*n*; British advance, American position, conduct of militia, 486–495, 500, 505, 507, 508, 510. *See also* next titles; Advanced line; Powles Hook; Trade with the enemy; Winter quarters.

New Jersey, governor of. *See* Livingston, William.

New Jersey brigade, winter quarters, 47; troops in light corps, 191; advanced line detachment, 342, 345, 355, 366; advance in battle line, 487; opposition to British advance, 493, 495. *See also* Maxwell, William.

New Jersey First Regiment, light corps, 191; offcers, 192*n*, 314; officer court-martialed, 314; soldier pardoned, 422*n*. *See also* Ogden, Matthias.

New Jersey Journal, 297*n*.

New Jersey magistrates, letter to, 266.

New Jersey Second Regiment, officers, 141*n*, 192*n*; light corps, 191; soldier pardoned, 422*n*. See also Shreve, Israel.

New Jersey Third Regiment, soldiers court-martialed, 65, 422*n*; officer, 141*n*; light corps, 191. *See also* Dayton, Elias.

New York, line quota, 82; proposed militia call, 106; specific supplies quota, 155, 156*n*, 460; Indian raid, 169; militia signals, 193, 255; preparation for militia call, 220; recruiting, 384; militia quota, rendezvous, 470*n*. *See also* next titles; Hudson River; Mohawk Valley.

New York, governor of. *See* Clinton, George.

New York, lieutenant governor of. *See* Van Cortlandt, Pierre.

New York brigade, clothing, 114; troops in light corps, 191; march to New York, purpose, 429, 433, 442, 443, 443*n*, 449, 450; strength, 442. *See also* Clinton, James.

New York City, military activity, purpose, and advices from England, 105–107, 130–133, 145, 147, 148, 162, 352*n*, 353, 354; troop movements to and from, supposed embarkations for South, 124, 170, 180, 187, 195, 197, 200, 218, 226, 241, 256, 264, 299, 307, 308, 365, 385, 396–398; American army supplies from, 212–214; force (April, May), 300, 370; plans for Franco-American operations against, 370, 372, 399, 413, 455–459, 459*n*, 482–485; naval force (May), 393; probable campaign strength, 456; ruse to divert attention from, 460; Clinton's return, force with him, 463–465, 472, 505; Knyphausen's New Jersey expedition, 486–495, 500, 505, 507, 510. *See also* Hudson River; Neutral Ground; Raids.

New York Fifth Regiment, light corps, 191; officer, 442*n*. *See also* Willett, Marinus.

New York First Regiment, officers, 34*n*, 89*n*, 90*n*, 374*n*, 389*n*. *See also* Van Schaick, Goose.

New York Fourth Regiment, soldiers court-martialed, 3, 380, 422*n*; light corps, 191; officer, 247*n*; officer court-martialed, 466, 467. *See also* Weissenfels, Frederick.

New York Historical Society, material from, 54, 141, 381, 386, 473, 491.

New York Second Regiment, officers, 184*n*, 260*n*, 442*n*; light corps, 191; soldier court-martialed, 380. *See also* Van Cortlandt, Philip.

New York State Library, material from, 221*n*, 254*n*.

New York Third Regiment, soldiers court-martialed, 34, 380, 422*n*; officer, 34*n*; officer court-martialed, 184; light corps, 191. *See also* Gansevoort, Peter.

Newark, N. J., protection, 441. *See also* Advanced line.

Newhall, *Lieut. Col.* Ezra, letter to, 183; furlough, 183; service, 183*n*.

Newport, R. I., British evacuation, 124; preparations for Rochambeau's force, 370, 387, 391, 403, 411, 467; medical preparations, 410, 411, 419, 467; express, 471.

Newspapers, from New York City, 45; notice of officer cashiered with infamy, 161.

Nice, *Capt.* John, light corps, 191; service, 192*n*.

Nicholas, Robert Carter, Fairfax agency, 66.

Niven, *Capt.* Daniel, commission, 333.

Nix, Cornelius, court-martial, capital penalty, pardon, 65, 422*n*.

Nixon, *Gen.* John, brigade, 190.

Nixon, *Col.* Thomas, furlough or resignation, 67; brigaded, 190.

Noncommissioned officers, swords, 45, 76; recruiting service, 175; court-martialed, capital penalty, pardon, 408, 422*n*.

Nonstate corps. *See* Additional.

North, *Lieut. Col.* Caleb, Shippen trial, 109; officer of the day, 260; service, 260*n*.

North, Frederick, *lord,* Irish trade, 120*n*.

Norton, ——, pass, Virginia act, 441.

North Carolina, line quota, 82; specific supplies quota, 156*n*, 160*n*. *See also* next titles.

North Carolina, governor of. *See* Caswell, Richard.

North Carolina brigade, officers' clothing, 20; to South, at Charleston, 124, 165. *See also* Hogun, James.

North Carolina delegates, letter to, 20.

North Carolina First Regiment, officer, 20*n*. *See also* Clark, Thomas.

North Carolina Independent Artillery Company, regimenting, 274, 277.

Number Four (Charleston), N. H., deposit of rum, 160.

Oakum, supply, 364.

O'Brien, Thomas, provost marshal, return to regiment, 96, 451.

Obstructions, Hudson River chain, 131.

Officers, unallowable soldier servants, 5, 346; public clothing, state supply, 20, 117, 118, 126, 269, 473; pursuit of deserters, 20*n*, 147; cashiered, infamy, restored, 34, 64, 161, 162, 184, 480; unbecoming conduct, 64, 142–144, 184, 261, 296; recruiting service, bounty, allowances, 139–141, 170, 171, 175, 194, 206, 217, 251, 256, 274, 303; reprimand, 135–137, 143–145, 225, 467; abused, 144, 341; right to horses, 149; defrauding soldiers, 161; forgery, 161; debt to soldiers, 161, 162; improper association with soldiers, 161, 162; assault by and on, 162, 184, 243–245, 296, 314; exchange of regiments, 181; winter furloughs, 183; portmanteaux, 188; straits of Additional Regiments, relief, 203, 207; spontoons, requirement, 215, 472; avoiding guard duty, 261; malingering, 261; absence without leave, 261; assembly at Morristown, 261*n*; accounts of detached, 324; returns on not on duty, 337; graft, 346; leave recalled, 374; disorderly conduct of guard, 466. (*See also* next title; Continental army; Courts-martial; Courts of inquiry; Disobedience; Drill; Field officers; Foreign volunteers; General officers Noncommissioned officers; Prisoners of war; Promotion; Rank; Resignation; Staff.

Officers of the day, at guard formation, 32; junior commands and selection, 96; communication of general orders, 103; assignments (1780, April), 248, 249, 255, 260, 268, 281, 283, 285, 290, 292, 295–297, 305, 313–315; (May), 318, 319, 321, 324, 336, 337, 339, 342, 345, 348, 349, 351, 359, 369, 374, 377, 380, 395, 400, 402, 404, 407, 422, 432, 433, 448, 451, 452; (June), 466, 467, 472, 476, 477, 485.

Ogden, *Mrs.* ——, pass, 421.

Ogden, *Capt.* Aaron, light corps, 191.

Ogden, *Col.* Matthias, at court-martial, 65; Shippen trial, 110; brigaded, 190; officer of the day, 248; at parade, 269.

Olney, *Lieut. Col.* Jeremiah, officers, 48*n*, 144*n*, 146*n*.

Olney, *Capt.* Stephen, light corps, 191; service, 192*n*.

Ordnance department, reform, 321. *See also* Artillery.

Otis and Henley, clothing, 86, 92, 127, 167, 172.

Overalls, making, 38; linen and canvas, on hand, 59*n*.

Page, *Ensign* ——, resignation, 415*n*.

Page, *Capt.* Peter, resignation, 415*n*.

Palmer, *Lieut.* Edward(?), prosecuted for military seizure, 340*n*.

Paper money, prepared information for enemy, 83; old and new issues, 151; liquidation of depreciation of pay, 209, 311, 315, 329; exchange, 234*n*; depreciation, pay arrears and threats, 430; depreciation and supplies, 439*n*.

Paramus, N. J., wounded at, 162; detachment, 240, 305; British surprise, 271; British occupation, 474, 492.

Parcels, John, detail, 162.

Pardon, granted, 3; capital offenders, hoped-for effect, 47, 48, 422*n*, 451; cashiered officer, 64; surrendering deserters, futility, 236, 281.

Paris Archives, Affaires Étrangerès, États Unis, material from, 11*n*, 301*n*, 303*n*, 335*n*, 348*n*, 359*n*, 482*n*.

Parke, *Capt.-Lieut.* Theophilus, court-martial, cashiered with infamy, 51, 51*n*, 149, 161.

Parole, various forms of alphabetical agreement or sequence with countersigns, 2; guards' knowledge, 177; significant, 249, 283, 290, 292, 295, 296, 315, 318, 349, 486, 489, 502, 503.

Paroles, special temporary, 28, 62, 68, 69, 195, 201, 216, 222, 238, 475, 480; obligation, 93; requirement questioned, 169; breakers, 201. *See also* Prisoners of war.

Parr, *Maj.* James, light corps command, 191; at court-martial, 290; service, 290*n*; officer of the day, 404, 452.

Parsons, *Gen.* Samuel Holden, line affairs before Connecticut legislature, 118; brigade, 190; letter to, 250; return to camp, 251; captured son, naval officer, 251; slandered, 341.

Passes, formalities, 7; illegal, 144, 145; to British messenger, 202; wife of exchanged prisoner, 230; right to grant to refugees, 421; to go abroad via New York, 344; authority, 441. *See also* Intercourse.

Pasturage, regulation, 156, 156*n*.

Paterson, *Gen.* John, new arrangement, 128; brigade, 190.

Patrol, Neutral Ground, 104; New Jersey advance line, militia horse, 268, 284, 288, 474.

Paulus Hook. *See* Powles Hook.

Pausch, *Dr.* Wilhelm, limited parole to New York, 475, 480.

Pay and allowances, defrauding soldiers, 161; officers on recruiting service, 206, 217, 257, 275; liquidating depreciation, uneven state, congressional, 210, 311, 315, 329; to maching troops, 244; clothing arrearages, 249; arrears, depreciation and threats, 287, 289, 330, 430; detached officers, 324. *See also* next titles; Accounts; Bounty; Funds; Gratuity.

Paymaster general, deputy, 275*n*.

Paymasters, appointment, 360, 378.

Peabody, Nathaniel. *See* Committee of cooperation.

Peace, Adams on prospects, 298*n*.

Pearl, H. M. S., at New York, 385, 393.

Peirce, Jesse, whipping, 3.

Pell, *Capt.* Samuel Treadwell, assaulted, 184, 296.

Penn, John, letter to, 20*n*.

Pennsylvania, line quota, 79*n*; specific supplies, depositories, difficulties, 156*n*, 309, 440; liquidating pay depreciation, 311; duty in 1780 campaign, 438; dictatorial powers to president, 439, 439*n*; militia quota, rendezvous, 470*n*. *See also* next titles; Fort Pitt; Philadelphia; Wyoming.

Pennsylvania, president of. *See* Reed, Joseph.

Pennsylvania brigades, clothing, 114; troops in light corps, 191; filling out regiments, 310; unrest and threats, 430; on march, 486; battle line, 487. *See also* Irvine, William; Wayne, Anthony.

Pennsylvania Eighth Regiment. *See* Brodhead, Daniel.

Pennsylvania Eleventh Regiment, light corps, 191; officers, 192*n*, 221*n*, 467*n*; soldiers court-martialed, 319, 408, 422*n*. *See also* Hubley, Adam.

Pennsylvania Fifth Regiment, soldier court-martialed, 23; officer court-martialed, 143, 144; light corps, 191; officers, 192*n*, 240*n*, 249*n*, 290*n*. *See also* Johnston, Francis.

Pennsylvania First Regiment, officers court-martialed, 59, 142, 143; light corps, 191; officers, 192*n*, 268*n*, 360*n*; adjutant, 316. *See also* Chambers, James.

Pennsylvania Fourth Regiment, light corps, 191; officers, 221*n*, 285*n*; surgeon court-martialed, 296; officer court-martialed, 346; staff officers, 378; corporal court-martialed, 408, 422*n*. *See also* Butler, William.

Pennsylvania Independent Artillery Company, regimenting, 277.

Pennsylvania Musket Battalion, 230*n*.

Pennsylvania Ninth Regiment, light corps, 191; officers, 260*n*, 295*n*, 360*n*. *See also* Butler, Richard.

Pennsylvania Second Regiment, officers, 142, 143*n*, 192*n*, 249*n*, 260*n*, 268*n*, 295*n*, 315*n*, 404*n*; light corps, 191. *See also* Stewart, Walter.

Pennsylvania Seventh Regiment, soldier court-martialed, 110; light corps, 191; officers, 192*n*, 290*n*. *See also* Connor, Morgan.

Pennsylvania Sixth Regiment, light corps, 191; officers, 192*n*, 290*n*. *See also* Magaw, Robert.

Pennsylvania Supreme Council, memorial of officers on new arrangement, 196; Arnold trial, 223.

Pennsylvania Tenth Regiment, soldiers court-martialed, 110, 342, 422*n*; officer court-martialed, 144; light corps, 191; officers, 192*n*, 260*n*, 290*n*; paymaster, 360. *See also* Humpton, Richard.

Pennsylvania Third Regiment, soldiers court-martialed, 3, 381; officer court-martialed, 64; officers, 161*n*, 192*n*, 240*n*, 290*n*, 378*n*, 433*n*; light corps, 191. *See also* Craig, Thomas.

Penobscot, Me., proposed new expedition, 270; British force, information sought, 362, 485.

Perkins, *Maj.* William, moving artillery, countermand, 217, 244, 338, 412, 412*n*; letters to, 244, 338, 412*n*; to main camp, 245.

Petersburg, Va., as rendezvous, 285, 289, 291.

Pettit, Charles, letter to, 32.

Peyton, Francis, Mercer affairs, 247.

Peyton, *Capt.* Henry, rank, promotion, 234, 479.

Philadelphia, charges against Arnold as commander, 223; specific supplies, 253.

Phillips, *Gen.* Williams, cartel negotiations, 61, 62, 116, 117, 189; letter to, 62; special parole exchange, 201.

Piatt, *Maj.* Daniel, Masonic funeral, 282.

Pickering, Timothy, report on quartermaster department, 185*n*, 186*n*.

Pickets. *See* Guards.

Pikes. *See* Spontoons.

Pilots, for Ternay, 362, 368, 387, 397, 404.

Pintard, Lewis, letter to, 60; cartel negotiations, 60, 61; accounts, protest on required parole, 168; as agent, 471.

Pitcairn, *Capt.* Thomas, exchange, 302, 305.

Pluckamin, N. J., hospital, guard, superintendent, 141, 295, 401*n*, 486.

Plunder, Staten Island, 34. *See also* Depredations.

Police of camp, burying carcasses, 34; on approach of Spring, 95; camp color men, 422, 477.

Pomeroy, *Lieut.* Ralph, clothing arrearages accounts, 249.

Poor, *Gen.* Enoch, letters to, 14*n*, 44, 139, 182; possible British plans against, 44; defense of West Point, 132; neglect of monthly returns, 139; brigade, 190; light corps brigade, 191.

Porter, *Lieut.* Charles, court-martial, 34.

Portmanteaux, for officers, 188.

Portsmouth, N. H., deposit of rum, 160.

Potter, William, punishment, 3.

Powell, *Pres.* Jeremiah, letters to, 35*n*, 101*n*, 160*n*, 462, 499*n*.

Powers, Robert, court-martial, capital penalty, pardon, 110, 342.

Powles Hook, N. J., plan against, 43, 46, 49; British post, 456.

Pratt, *Lieut.* Jonathan, quartermaster, 378; service, 378*n*.

Presentations to Washington, delicacies, 219*n*, 234, 349; dimity, 328.

President of Congress, letters to, 8, 20, 45, 92, 121, 127, 145, 152, 163, 169, 188, 197, 207, 226, 241, 269, 272, 311, 329, 351, 352, 378, 385, 428, 454, 455, 493.

Prices, coach, 129*n*, 177; crockery, 234.

Prisoners, military, trial ordered, 320.

Prisoners of war, in South, 8; marine, condition of American, 26; state and line exchanges, 26, 302, 304, 324, 325, 328; cartel negotiations, failure, 28, 54, 55, 60, 84, 87–89, 116, 117, 119, 122, 188, 272; The Cedars hostages, 93; special exchanges, 119, 238, 302, 305, 323, 325, 327; Pintard's accounts, 168; releasing chaplains, 202, 216, 475; pass for wife of exchanged, 230; passing exchanged, 242; exchange of naval officer, 251; guard to conduct, 262, 466; resident agents, 330, 470, 471; relief, bills of exchange, 345, 480. *See also* Convention troops; Paroles.

Pritchard, Francis, detail, 162.

Privateering, American prisoners of war, 26; prize, 276, 276*n*; deserters in crews, 463.

Prizes, American prisoners of war, 26; provisions in, 276.

Proclamations, pardon of condemned men, 422*n*; Massachusetts deserters, 462; to Canadians, 476.

Procter, *Col.* Thomas, Shippen trial, 109, 110, 377; new arrangement, 277.

Promotion, irregular, Lee's request refused, evil, 18, 234, 478, 479; rule, 272, 273; right, 474.

Providence, manifestations, 392; consolation, 511.

Providence, R. I., removal of artillery, countermand, 217, 245, 338, 412, 412*n*; boats, 423; militia rendezvous, 470*n*; magazine for supplies for French forces, 497.

Provisions, New Jersey supply, 50; Virginia measures, inadequacy, 54; extortion in charges, civilian inquiry, 85; renewal of scarcity at main cantonment, 121, 131, 137, 150, 151, 308, 406, 413; estimate for 1780 campaign, 152, 457; scarcity at West Point, relief, 198, 463–465, 472, 509; New Jersey impressment, state payment, 206; on prize, 276*n*; British threat on magazine, offset, 326; lack of funds, 330; for French forces, 390, 497–499; for guard, 401; scarcity at Fort Schuyler, relief, 406, 409, 420, 449; failure of transportation, 442; for marching troops, 450; due bills for deficient, 495. *See also* Commissary; Flour; Meat; Ration; Specific supplies.

Provost, returns, 13; not added to Armand's corps, 25; winter post, 179, 184*n*; maneuvers, 433.

Provost marshal, appointment, 70, 96; return to regiment, 451.

Pulaski, *Count* Casimir, corps to Armand, 25.

Punishments, ordered, 3; capital, ordered, pardon, 22, 23, 34, 35, 48, 65, 110, 197, 222, 258, 319, 380, 408, 422, 434; officers cashiered, 34, 64, 161, 162, 184, 480; sentenced to navy, 65. *See also* Crimes; Reprimand; Whipping.

Putnam, *Maj.* Daniel, letter to, 157; resignation, 157*n*; Putnam's aide, 157*n*.

Putnam, *Gen.* Israel, improved health, 157; aide, 157*n*.

Putnam, *Col.* Rufus, furlough, 183; brigaded, 190.

Quartermaster department, alarming condition, 89, 93, 137; state supplies, 94; returns on all property, 80, 102; court-martial of official, 98–100; specific supply system, character, deposits, 138; congressional report on reform, Washington's comments, 185*n*, 186*n*; store at cantonment, 320. *See also* next titles; Baggage; Commissary; Express; Forage; Magazines; Staff; Transportation.

Quartermaster general, deputies, 98, 266*n*, 283*n*, 379*n*, 423*n*, 477; letter to deputy at Trenton, 184*n*. *See also* Greene, Nathanael.

Quartermasters, appointment, 378.

Quarters. *See* Huts; Tents; Winter quarters.

Queens Rangers, to South, 299.

Raids by British, New Jersey, 271, 364, 365, 474; Knyphausen's expedition, 486–496, 500, 505, 507, 510. *See also* Frontier.

Rainbow, H. M. S., 226.

Ramsay, William, Mercer affairs, 246.

Ramsey, *Lieut. Col.* Nathaniel, cartel, 54; exchange, 324, 325, 328.

Randall, John, state clothier, court-martial, 141, 269.

Randolph, *Lieut.* Robert, temporary parole, 201, 222.

Rank, new arrangement, decisions, and commissions: artificers, 1; Massachusetts, 17, 67, 69, 128, 133*n*, 331, 332, 473; artillery, 31, 196, 277–279, 481; — general officers, 94; artillery detachment to South, 273. *See also* Promotion.

Ration, rum for guards, 15; emergent cooking, 492, 502. *See also* Provisions.

Rawdon's Corps, to South, 195, 197, 226, 264.

Rawlings, *Col.* Moses, returns of "late" regiment, 13, 37*n*, 112.

Rawson, *Ensign* William, resignation, 415*n*.

Read, *Capt.* Edmund(?), Virginia State Dragoons, 290*n*.

Read, *Capt.* James, clothing for North Carolina officers, 20; service, 20*n*.

Reading, Pa., specific supplies, 253.

Recruiting, artificers, reenlistment, 1, 2, 79; quotas for 1780, data, 12, 13, 21, 24, 27, 35–37, 39, 53, 54, 76, 82, 83, 112, 384, 456; state credit for nonstate corps, 12, 14–17, 19, 21, 24, 27, 53, 54, 79*n*, 101, 102, 112, 207; evils of short enlistments, 30; returns as basis, 44; terms of enlistment, vagueness, trouble, 79, 209, 381; preparations for levies, 96; clothing for levies, 127, 172; state actions, officers detailed, allowance, 139–141, 150, 170–173, 175, 207, 217, 218, 256, 257, 274, 285–287, 289; reenlistment for war, 171; effect of delay in call, 186; Additional regiments, 187, 207; cavalry, dismounted men, natives, 194; progress, delay, 254; distribution of levies, 275; lack of funds, 280; proper rendezvous, 285, 289; nonstate, and state bounties, 303; reenlistment and transfer, 304; method, 311. *See also* Bounty; Discharges; Draft.

Reed, *Pres.* Joseph, letters to, 11, 35*n*, 37*n*, 46, 101*n*, 160*n*, 196, 239, 252, 309, 434; specific supplies, 239, 252, 253, 309; dictatorial powers, letter, 439, 439*n*; Washington on relations, 440; child, 440.

Regiments, question of reduction, 311; complement, 417.

Regnier, *Lieut. Col.* Pierre, certificate of service, 176.

Reid, *Lieut. Col.* George, brigaded, 190.

Reid, *Maj.* James Randolph, clothing, 47; at court-martial, 285, 290, 408; officer of the day, 321, 422; maneuvers, 359, 467.

Reily, *Capt.* William, letter to, 401*n*; detail, 401*n*.

Religion. *See* Providence.

Reprimand, of Beatty, 33; of officers, 135–137, 143–145, 467; of Arnold, 225.

Requisition, neglect and inadequacy, 453, 453*n*. *See also* Specific supplies.

Resignation of officers, prevalence, condemned, 181, 414, 415*n*.

Returns and rolls, field officers' names, 2; books, 3, 114; spontoons, 7, 472; nonstate corps, difficulty, 12, 14–17; guards, 22; data for recruiting, 35, 39, 44, 76, 112; clothing, need and supply, 59, 70; duty of general officers, 71; musical equipments, 75; quartermaster department property, 80, 102; monthly, of conditions, neglect, 133, 139; officers' neglect, 134, 135; sick, weekly, 160, 338; American and British strength: in South, 164, 165, 371; in North, 166, 198, 300, 370, 456, 483–485; — detailed men, 240; public riding horses, 248; needed arms, 306; officers not on duty, 337; needed strength for 1780 campaign, 456; expected French force, 457; field, of fit for action, 491; needed shoes and canteens, 492, 502. *See also* Muster.

Rhode Island, quota, recruiting, 82, 170, 173; specific supplies, 155, 160*n*; line troops refused to, 172, 241, 242; militia quota, rendezvous, 470*n*; liquidating pay depreciation, 311. *See also* next titles; Newport.

Rhode Island, deputy governor of. *See* Bowen, Jabez.

Rhode Island, governor of. *See* Greene, William.

Rhode Island brigade, troops in light corps, 191.

Rhode Island First Regiment, officers, 146*n*, 415*n*; soldiers court-martialed, 434, 461. *See also* Greene, Christopher.

Rhode Island Second Regiment, officers, 144*n*, 192*n*, 281*n*. *See also* Angell, Israel.

Richards, D. W., letters possessed by, 176*n*, 243*n*, 390*n*.

Riedesel, Friedrich Adolph, *baron* von, letter to Jefferson, 19.

Roads, in winter cantonment, 95; repair in New Jersey, 260.

Roberts, *Col.* Owen, killed, 273.

Robertson, *Gen.* James, royal governor of New York, 170.

Robinson, *Lieut. Col.* Thomas, court-martial, reprimand, 143, 144; service, 143*n*; officer of the day, 249, 297, 345; maneuvers, 290, 423.

Rochambeau, Jean B. D. de Vimeur, *comte* de, coming of force hinted, 348, 351*n*; possible English preparations against coming, 352*n*, 353, 354; plan for authoritative congressional committee, 356–358, 396, 408; confidential information on coming and plans, 360, 363, 366–368; preparations for cooperation with, New York as objective, 364, 365, 370–373, 383, 384, 386, 396, 397, 399, 400, 403, 407, 411, 413, 414, 423, 426, 441, 446, 455–461, 482; liaison, 375, 410; advent and southern operations, 376, 377, 398; rumored arrival on coast, 402, 410; medical preparations, 410, 411, 419, 467; circular to states on cooperation, 416–419, 468–470, 504–506; effect of failure to cooperate with, 435, 438, 439, 509; expected force, 457, 483; preparations of matériel, 459–461, 496–499; requisites, 465, 466; Heath as adviser, 468; supplies, protection on purchase, 468; express, 471; proclamation to Canadians, 476; Washington's promise to La Luzerne on cooperation, 481; council of war on plans, 482–485; horses for force, limitation, 497; Papers, 498*n*.

Rochefontaine, *Capt.* Etienne Nicolas Marie Béchet, *chevalier* de, bears letter, 373; advanced-line works, 373, 386, 388; liaison with Rochambeau, 411.

Rodney, *Pres.* Caesar, letters to, 35*n*, 160*n*, 501.

Rodney, *Sir* George, defeat of Spanish fleet, 241.

Roebuck, H. M. S., reported at New York, 180.

Rogers, *Ensign* John, abused, 144; service, 144*n*.

Rolls. *See* Returns.

Rosenbach, Abraham S. W., acknowledgments to, 230*n*, 358*n*, 392*n*, 454*n*.

Ross, Alexander, detail, 162.

Rounds, Amos, pardon, 3.

Rum, ration for guards, 15; unauthorized order, 135, 136; specific supplies, 159, 160, 253, 317, 318; on prizes, 276, 276*n*.

Russell, H. M. S., at New York, 180, 393, 484.

Rutledge, *Gov.* John, letters to, 160*n*, 232*n*, 265, 375; siege of Charleston, 376, 377, 385.

Sabens, Samuel, substitute enlistment, 48.

Saddlery, dragoons, 85, 149, 167, 168.

Safford, *Lieut. Col.* Samuel, leave of absence, 25; service, 25*n*.

St. Augustine, Fla., plans against, 263; force, 484.

St. Clair, *Gen.* Arthur, letters to, 6, 7*n*, 42, 43*n*, 46, 49, 84, 201; advanced line, vigilance, activity, 6, 7; Powles Hook project, 43, 46, 49; to headquarters, dinner, 49; absence, 60; cartel negotiations, credentials, instructions, 61, 84, 87–89, 189*n*, 272*n*; councils of war: on Southern campaign, 164*n*, 195*n*; on Rochambeau cooperation, 482; — division, 190; command in field, 490.

St. Patricks Day, army observance, 120.

Salt, state quotas, 155, 156*n*, 253.

Sandbags, need, 461.

Saratoga, U. S. S., 444*n*.

Sawmill, army use, 105.

Saxton, ——, pass, 7*n*.

Scammell, *Col.* Alexander, return to camp, 146, 249; brigaded, 190; letter to, 291.

Schott, *Capt.* John Paul, returns, 13; company to German Battalion, 302.

Schuyler, Philip, Indian student at Dartmouth, 116; letters to, 137, 185, 398; on Greene and conduct of department, letter, 185*n*; sawmill, platform planks, 380; queries to, on cooperation with French, 398–400; movements, 443. *See also* Committee of cooperation.

Scotch Plains, N. J., British advance, 493.

Scott, *Gen.* Charles, to South, 291.

Scott, John Morin, committee on cartel, 189*n*.

Scudder, *Lieut. Col.* Nathaniel, letter to, 495*n*; march orders, 495*n*.

Sea power, importance, 198, 271; importance of Halifax, 361; in 1780, 435, 436.

Searle, James, committees: on specific supplies, 156*n*; on committee of cooperation, 211*n*.

Secaucus, N. J., secret service, 41.

Second Artillery. *See* Lamb, John.

Second Dragoons, needed arms and equipments, 85, 91; clothing, 86, 90, 92; officers, 91*n*, 341*n*, 477*n*. *See also* Sheldon, Elisha.

Secret service. *See* Intelligence; Spies.

Seley. *See* Selin.

Selin, *Capt.* Anthony, returns, 13; company to German Battalion, 302.

Servants, soldier, to officers unallowable, 5; enlistment, release, 247.

Seventeenth Foot, British, officers, 68, 475.

Seventy-first Foot, British, officers, 28, 475.

Shahaan (Streehan), Thomas, detail, 162.

Shaw, Nathaniel, *jr.*, gift to headquarters, 349; prize agent, 349*n*.

Sheldon, *Col.* Elisha, returns, 15, 25; winter quarters, state act, 18*n*; letters to, 39*n*, 167*n*, 280, 341, 473; New Jersey men, 101; recruiting, lack of funds, 280; arms and equipments, 280–282; clothing, uniforms, 281, 283, 473; clothing for officers, 473; movements, 474; ordering up horses, 474, 478; at West Point, 495.

Shepard, *Col.* William, brigaded, 190; light corps command, 191.

Sherburne, *Lieut.* Benjamin, certificate, 48; service, 48*n*.

Sherburne, *Col.* Henry, substitute enlistment, 48; clothing deficiencies, 63, 108; officers, 216*n*, 256*n*; men transferred, 319; bears letter, 455; supernumerary, Washington on services, 455.

Sherman, *Ensign* Henry, certificate, 48; service, 48*n*.

Sherman, *Lieut. Col.* Isaac, letter to, 117; clothing for officers, 117, 118; brigaded, 190; officer of the day, 448; maneuvers, 467.

Sherman, Roger, medical department plan, 50*n*; committee on specific supplies, 156*n*.

Sherwood, *Lieut.* Adiel, resignation, 374; service, 374*n*.

Shethar, *Capt.* John, resignation, 91.

Ship carpenters, use, 495.

Shippen, *Dr.* William, *jr.*, court-martial, 91, 109, 219, 360, 369, 377.

Shirts, need, 38; number on hand, 59*n*; poor quality, 279.

Shoes and stockings, number on hand, 59*n*; hide exchange, irregularities, 110; soldiers making, 110; men on fatigue, 183; proportional distribution, 196; Virginia troops, 263; advanced line, 279; field returns on need, 492; issue, 503.

Shorthills, N. J. *See* Springfield.

Shreve, *Col.* Israel, brigaded, 190; at court-martial, 285, 319, 346, 348.

Shute, John, detail, 313, 477.

Sick, weekly returns, 160, 338; officer's malingering, 261; Virginia levies, destitution, 291; huts, 337.

Signals, militia, 107, 131, 193, 255; tattoo, 504.

Sill, *Lieut. Col.* David Fithian, officer of the day, 400, 477; service, 400*n*.

Simcoe, *Lieut. Col.* John Graves, to South, 226, 264.

Simsbury, Conn., winter quarters, 18*n*.

Sixty-second Foot, British, officer, 201.

Skeensborough, N. Y., Indian raid, 169.

Skinner, Abraham, letters to, 28, 231, 302, 323, 475; Dean, 231; special exchanges and paroles, 302, 323, 475, 480.

Sloan, *Ensign* Sturgin, expenses, 82; service, 82*n*.

Smith, ——, pass, 344.

Smith, *Col.* Calvin, brigaded, 190.

Smith, *Lieut. Col.* William Stephens, officer of the day, 255, 342; at parade, 269.

Smith and Watson, *American Historical and Literary Curiosities,* 261*n*.

Socks, number on hand, 59*n*.

South Carolina, quota, 82; specific supplies, 156*n*, 160*n*. *See also* next titles; Charleston; Southern campaign.

South Carolina, governor of. *See* Rutledge, John.

South Carolina Fourth Regiment (artillery), officer, 273*n*.

Southern campaign, British voyage, losses, 55, 57, 93, 100, 124, 145, 164, 264; and Spanish Florida operations, 56–58, 100, 263; Virginia brigades, levies, 57, 124, 165, 291, 334, 378; North Carolina brigade, 124; prospects, question of more troops to, councils of war, 151, 157, 164–166, 195; Du Portail, 178; Lee's corps, recall, 179, 183, 199, 236, 238, 397, 488, 508; further British troops from New York, 179, 180, 187, 195, 197, 200, 218, 226, 241, 256, 259, 264, 299, 307, 385, 396–398; Washington's anxiety, 186, 187; Maryland brigades, Delaware regiment, Kalb, march, route, 198–200, 204, 205, 215, 226, 243, 244, 257, 261, 264, 270, 271, 301, 307, 309; specific supplies, 231, 265; high command, Washington, 257, 258, 300; artillery, 272, 279; Germain's expectations, 323*n*; queries on possible Franco-American operations, 398; American forces, 484. *See also* Charleston.

Southwick, Solomon, letter to, 442; provisions, 442.

Spain, Florida expeditions, 56, 57, 93, 218; naval defeats, 169, 217*n*, 241; attitude, 242*n*; finances and war, 437.

Specie, Washington's private expenses, 234; intelligence, 358.

Specific supplies, plan, deposits, 94, 138, 159, 186*n*, 265; criticism, 151–155, 156*n*, 157*n*; state attitude, 158; from South, 231, 265; directions to various states, 239, 252, 253, 317, 318; Pennsylvania difficulties, 309, 440; transportation, 310; urge, demands for 1780 campaign, 447, 458, 459*n*, 460; forage, Trenton as magazine, 447, 448.

Spencer, ——, travel money, public clothing, 17.

Spencer, *Col.* Oliver, at court of inquiry, 81, 108; clothing, 108; brigaded, 190; officer of the day, 260, 290, 319.

Spencer, *Ensign* William, letter to, 80; leave of absence, 80; service, 80*n*.

Spies, Culpers, line of communication, quit, 40–42, 92, 390; prepared information for enemy, 82; invisible ink, 237, 350, 355; caution against suspicious persons around camp, 241. *See also* Intelligence.

Spoils. *See* Depredations; Plunder.

Spontoons, returns, 7; as requisite, 215, 472.

Spoor, *Ensign* John, court-martial, cashiered, 184.

Springfield, Mas., dragoon equipments, 168, 280–282; ordnance from Rhode Island, 217, 245, 338, 412, 412*n*.

Springfield (Shorthills), N. J., Washington and staff dine at, 232*n*; advanced line headquarters, 280*n*; Washington and La Luzerne at, 287; general headquarters, letters and orders from 486–511.

Sprout, *Col.* Eben, brigaded, 190.

Squan, N. J., guard for supplies from, 212.

Staff, guards and details from line, 221; reorganization of departments, 300; liquidation of pay depreciation, 315; regimental officers and drill, 349. *See also* Adjutant general; Adjutants; Brigade majors and inspectors; Clothier general; Commissary; Engineers; Inspector general; Intelligence; Judge advocate general; Medical department; Military secretaries; Muster department; Paymaster general; Provost; Provost marshal; Quartermaster department.

Stafford, *Lieut. Col.* Samuel. *See* Safford.

Stake, *Capt.* Jacob, light corps, 191; service, 192*n*.

Starbird, *Ensign* John, resignation, 415*n*.

Starbord. *See* Starbird.

Stark, *Gen.* John, winter quarters, 47; letter to, 62; condition of brigade criticized, 62; fatigue detail, 105; officer of the day, 422, 476; council of war on Ṛochambeau cooperation, 482*n*; brigade on march, 486; battle line, 487.

Starr, *Col.* Josiah, letter to, 117; clothing for officers, 117, 118; brigaded, 190.

State clothier, arrest, court-martial, 141*n*, 269.

Staten Island, plunder, 34; British activity, 40, 106.

States, interference with Continental army, 18; circular letters to, 35–37, 159, 468; uneven support of army, effect, 208–211; supineness condemned, 435, 453, 454*n*, 507, 508; definite military demands on, 458, 459, 459*n*, 465, 483, 504–506. *See also* Requisitions; Specific supplies.

Stein, *Maj.* Johann Friedrich von, parole to New York, 28.

Steuben, *Gen.* Frederick W. A. H. F., *baron* von, letters to, 23, 76, 202, 320; ill, 76; business of department, 77; division, 190; arrangement for campaign of 1780, 202; reorganization of Additional regiments, 203; La Luzerne, 204; anxiety over military prospects, 204; guard at quarters, 282; maneuvers, 297, 350; general inspection of arms, 305, 319; Washington's nephew, 320; on needed arms, 339; aide, 369; line command in field, 487, 492.

Stevens, *Lieut. Col.* Ebenezer, recruiting, 303.

Stevens, Nathaniel, public stores, 420.

Stewart, *Col.* Charles, flour transportation, 326, 414; flour for Fort Schuyler, 415, 420, 425.

Stewart, *Col.* Walter, letter to, 20*n*; pursuit of deserter, 20*n*; to headquarters, 20*n*; at court-martial, 22, 59, 64, 109; brigaded, 190; officer of the day, 292, 321, 359, 432; maneuvers, 395, 433.

Stinson, James, court-martial, capital penalty, 196, 197.

Stirling, *Gen.* Thomas, reported wounding, 493, 508.

Stirling, *Gen.* William Alexander, *lord,* orders courts-martial, 65, 221, 381; letters to, 71, 139, 381, 385, 488, 490 (two); orders and their enforcement, 71–74; recruiting, instructions, 139–141, 141*n*; councils of war: on Southern campaign, 166*n*, 195*n*; on cooperation with French, 482*n*; — division, 190; advanced line, 385, 388; British advance, militia, 488, 490, 491; command in field, 492.

Stock. *See* Cattle.

Stockings, number on hand, 59*n*. *See also* Shoes.

Stocks, number on hand, 59*n*.

Stoddard, *Capt.* Orringh, on raid, letter, 8*n*, 9.

Stony Point, N. Y., status in case of attack, 132.

Stores. *See* Commissary; Quartermaster department.

Straggling, in field, summary punishment, 502–504.

Straw, William, pardon, 3.

Streehan, Thomas. *See* Shahaan.

Strength of forces. *See* Returns.

Stuart, *Maj.* (*Lieut. Col.*) Christopher, light corps command, 191; at court-martial, 240*n*; officer of the day, 285, 422; maneuvers, 400, 451.

Subinspectors, returns on arms, 306.

Suffern, John, tavern, reported British foray, 103.

Suffield, Conn., winter quarters, 18*n*.

Sullivan, John, committee on cartel, 189*n*.

Sumner, *Lieut. Col.* John, maneuvers, 422; service, 422*n*; at court-martial, 448.

Sunbury, Pa., specific supplies, 253.

Surgeons, regimental supplies, returns, 160; public clothing, 174; to Virginia, 289, 291; court-martialed, 296. *See also* Medical department.

Swan, ——, trade with the enemy, 441.

Swift, *Col.* Heman, brigaded, 190.

Swift, H. M. S., 226, 393.

Sword belts, number on hand, 59*n*.

Swords, for noncommissioned officers, 45, 76; for dragoons, 86.

Symmes, *Judge* John Cleves, and soldiers claiming discharge, 28, 29, 43; letters to, 43, 85; extortions on soldiers, letter, 85, 85*n*.

Talbot, *Maj.* Jeremiah, officer of the day, 369; maneuvers, 400; detachment, advanced line, position, patrols, 433, 474; letters to, 474, 487; British advance, 487, 492.

Tallmadge, *Maj.* Benjamin, clothing, letter, 86, 91, 92; letters to, 91, 390; Culpers, 390; clothing for officers, 473.

Tallow, collection, 75, 233.

Tar, supply, 364.

Tattoo, in field, 504.

Taverns, Half Moon, N. J., 467.

Taylor, Obediah, irregular claim, 110.

Taylor, Roger, detail, 162.

Temple, *Lieut. Col.* Benjamin, on southern conditions, 179; letter to, 193; transfer, 193, 219; furlough, recruiting, 194.

Tents, returns, 80; detail to make, 162; for frontier troops refused, 294.

Ternay, Charles Louis d'Arsac, *chevalier* de, fleet expected, plans for, pilots, 362, 368, 370, 387, 397, 404, 411; despatches, 411. *See also* Rochambeau.

Thacher, *Dr.* James, *Military Journal,* 311*n*.

Thames, H. M. S., 226, 385, 393.

Thayer, *Maj.* Simeon, Shippen trial, 109; officer of the day, 281, 318, 351; service, 281*n*.

Theft, trials, penalty, 22, 110, 342, 434; by officer from woman, 34.

Thierry, ——, pass, 7.

Third Artillery, officer, 217*n*. *See also* Crane, John.

Third Dragoons. *See* Washington, William.

Thomas, ——, Mercer affairs, 246.

Thompson, *Lieut. Col.* Joseph, British raid, captured, 9, 18; service, 9*n*.

Throop, *Maj.* Benjamin, charge against, 340; service, 340*n*.

Ticknor, Isaac, court-martial, 91, 98, 100; countercharges, 99, 100.

Tilghman, Tench, letters written by, 2*n*, 7*n*, 15*n*, 18*n*, 27*n*, 35*n*, 39*n*, 40*n*, 42*n*, 44*n*–46*n*, 49*n*, 51*n*, 53*n*, 54*n*, 68*n*, 69*n*, 76*n*, 79*n*, 84*n*, 87*n*, 90*n*–92*n*, 98*n*–101*n*, 108*n*, 109*n*, 111*n*, 113*n*, 116*n*, 118*n*, 126*n*, 128*n*, 141*n*, 150*n*, 156*n*, 167*n*–169*n*, 179*n*, 182*n*, 184*n*, 188*n*, 189*n*, 193*n*, 194*n*, 200*n*, 202*n*, 205*n*–207*n*, 216*n*–221*n*, 236*n*, 239*n*, 241*n*–243*n*, 245*n*, 251*n*, 252*n*, 254*n*, 255*n*, 257*n*, 259*n*, 260*n*, 263*n*, 280*n*, 282*n*, 283*n*, 288*n*, 290*n*, 292*n*, 301*n*–305*n*, 316*n*, 318*n*, 321*n*, 327*n*, 332*n*, 334*n*, 337*n*–339*n*, 344*n*, 347*n*, 349*n*, 351*n*, 352*n*, 356*n*, 364*n*, 365*n*, 369*n*, 374*n*, 375*n*, 378*n*–381*n*, 383*n*, 389*n*, 390*n*, 397*n*, 398*n*, 403*n*, 407*n*, 409*n*, 410*n*, 424*n*, 428*n*, 441*n*, 443*n*, 454*n*, 455*n*, 461*n*, 462*n*, 464*n*, 466*n*, 468*n*, 473*n*–476*n*, 478*n*, 480*n*, 481*n*, 501*n*, 504*n*, 511*n*; letters: on lack of funds, 23*n*; on returns, 35*n*; on paroles, 69*n*; on advanced line, 280*n*.

Tolbert, *Capt.* Samuel, light corps, 191.

Tollman, *Ensign* Thomas, bears letter, 187; service, 187*n*.

Toner Transcripts, material from, 247*n*.

Torpichen, *Lieut.* James, *lord,* parole exchange, 201, 238.

Torrey, *Maj.* Joseph, officer of the day, 283, 319, 407, 485; service, 283*n*; maneuvers, 395, 451.

Trade with the enemy, checking, 271; military seizure, civil interference, 340; civil or military punishment, 441. *See also* Intercourse.

Trafton, *Capt.* Joshua, letter to, 48; substitute enlistment, 48; service, 48*n*.

Transportation, danger in winter, 23; troops to South, 157; army from winter camp, 158; failure for provisions, New Jersey requisition, impressment, 266, 267, 414, 442, 463, 465; of specific supplies, 310; for French army, 413; requisite for 1780 campaign, 457. *See also* Horses; Navigation; Roads; Travel; Wagon.

Travel, Philadelphia to Providence route, 498. *See also* Carriage; March.

Trenton, N. J., forage magazine, 448; militia rendezvous, 470*n*.

Trescott, *Maj.* Lemuel, officer of the day, 292, 404, 451; service, 292*n*; detachment, continuance, 305, 365*n*; proposed foray, 342; letters to, 365, 365*n*; intelligence, 365; maneuvers, 477.

Trumbull, John, letter to, 159; certificate of service, 159.

Trumbull, *Gov.* Jonathan, letters to, 35*n*, 53, 150, 160*n*, 217, 303, 390, 425, 499, 509; state quota, 53; recruiting, 303; Rochambeau cooperation, supplies, 390, 499; emergent supply of provisions, 425, 465, 509; Washington on zeal, 507, 509; loss of wife, 511.

Tupper, *Col.* Benjamin, brigaded, 190.

Turner, *Dr.* Philip, letter to, 49; on medical reform, letter, 49, 50*n*; service, 49*n*.

Uniforms, cavalry, 283.

Valnais, Joseph de, duel, 373.

Van Beaverhout, Lucas, letter to, 293; dinner invitation declined, 293.

Van Buskirk, *Lieut. Col.* Abraham, movement against, 7.

Van Cortlandt, *Col.* Philip, brigaded, 190; light corps, 191; at parade, 269; officer of the day, 314, 348, 374, 395; maneuvers, 423, 433; hut, 448.

Van Cortlandt, *Lieut. Gov.* Pierre, letter to, 500.

Van Dyke, *Capt.* Abraham C., court of inquiry, 81, 108, 109; as prisoner of war, 443; service, 443*n*; commission in marines, 444.

Van Dyke, *Lieut. Col.* Cornelius, Fort Schuyler, militia garrison, 384, 389.

Van Schaick, *Col.* Goose, returns, 15*n*, 35; letters to, 15*n*, 35, 89, 247, 301, 374, 409, 415; irregular court-martial, 89; relief of regiment, 90; on Indian raid, letter, 169; brigaded, 190; regiment to main army, countermand, 389, 405, 407, 409; provisions shortage, supply, 406, 415, 420, 425, 429.

Van Winkle, John, 144.

Vergennes, Charles Gravier, *comte* de, letter to, 211*n*.

Verplancks Point, N. Y., status in case of attack, 132.

Vests, number on hand, 59*n*.

Vigilant, H. M. S., 165.

Vimeur, Jean B. D. de. *See* Rochambeau.

Vincent, *Ensign* Elijah, parole, 104.

Virginia, quota, and nonstate corps, 19, 75, 82; provision for supplies, flour, 54, 438; state clothing for officers, 126; specific supplies, 156*n*; recruiting, rendezvous, 285–287, 289. *See also* next titles; Convention troops.

Virginia, governor of. *See* Jefferson, Thomas.

Virginia brigades, to South, 57, 124, 165; clothing, state supply, 263, 265; desertion, 287; officers and pay arrears, 287, 289; at Charleston, 334, 378. *See also* Muhlenberg, Peter; Scott, Charles; Woodford, William.

Virginia Eighth Regiment, officer, 80*n*. *See also* Wood, James.

Virginia Ninth Regiment, returns, 112; officers, 112*n*, 306. *See also* Gibson, John.

Virginia State Dragoons, 290*n*.

Virginia Tenth Regiment. *See* Davies, William.

Volunteers, proposed, to resist Canadian troops, 115.

Von Heer, *Capt.* Bartholomew, post, 179, 184*n*; letters to, 184*n*, 347; horses to main camp, 347; movements, 347*n*.

Vose, *Col.* Joseph, brigaded, 190.

Wadsworth, James W., letter possessed by, 508*n*.

Wadsworth, Jeremiah, movements, at Philadelphia, 94, 137; scarcity, 137, 150; specific supplies, 155; provisions for troops marching to South, 157, 199, 200; letters to, 402, 464, 506; French messenger, 403; provisions for West Point, 464; offer of services, 506.

Wagon, right of brigade commander to, 250. *See also* next titles.

Wagoners, as express, 118.

Wagonmaster, graft, 212.

Waistcoats. *See* Vests.

Walker, *Capt.* Andrew, light corps, 191; service, 192*n*.

Walker, *Capt.* Robert, Connecticut men, 53.

Ward, *Capt.* Bernard, letter to, 230; exchange, pass for wife, 230; service, 230*n*.

Ward, *Col.* Joseph, letter to, 66; retirement, Washington's appreciation, 66; appointment as commissary of prisoners of war, 313.

Warner, *Col.* Seth, officers, 25*n*, 187*n*; letter to, 187; recruiting, 187; clothing, excess allowance, 188.

Warrants. *See* Accounts.

Washington, George, election to American Philosophical Society, 11; Fairfax agency, 66; coach, 128, 129, 233, 234; movements, 232*n*, 287, 486, 490, 493; Mercer affairs, 246, 247, 391. *See also* Commander in chief.

Washington, *Ensign* George Augustine, letters written by, 75*n*, 320*n*; appointment, 306; Steuben's aideship, 320; sent for specie, 359.

Washington, John Augustine, letter to, 482.

Washington, Lund, specie for Washington, 234, 234*n*; letters to, 234*n*, 246, 391; Mercer affairs, 246, 247, 391.

Washington, Martha, Miralles, 219; La Luzerne, 335; Duane, 354; Lafayette, 397; Reeds, 440.

Washington, *Lieut. Col.* William, in South, 165.

Watchcoats, number on hand, 59*n*.

Watchword, in field, 486, 489, 491, 502, 503. *See also* Countersigns.

Waterbury, Conn., specific supplies, 318.

Waterhouse, Joseph, pardon, 3.

Waters, *Capt.-Lieut.* Richard, adjutant, 250; service, 250*n*.

Watson, James W., letter to, 317; specific supplies, 317.

Wayne, *Gen.* Anthony, brigade, resumption, 190, 382; letter to, 381; military plan, letter, 382, 382*n*; on conditions in Congress, 382*n*; Bulls Ferry attempt, 402*n*; council of war on Rochambeau cooperation, 482*n*.

Weare, *Pres.* Meshech, letters to, 35*n*, 160*n*.

Weather, severity, frozen waters and army movements, 7, 18, 40, 43, 125.

Webb, *Capt.* James, furlough or resignation, 256.

Webb, *Capt.* John, bears letter, 477; service, 477*n*; Greene's aide, 487.

Webb, *Col.* Samuel Blatchley, musicians, 63; clothing, 63, 108; brigaded, 190; officers, 240*n*, 313*n*; men from Sherburne's regiment, 319.

Weedon, *Gen.* George, and return to command, 453.

Weiss, John, provost marshal, 70*n*.

Weissenfels, *Lieut. Col.* Frederick, brigaded, 190; officer of the day, 248, 295, 324; at court-martial, 380; maneuvers, 400.

Weltner, *Lieut. Col.* Ludowick, conduct, 480.

Wesson, *Col.* James, brigaded, 190.

West Indies, Spanish defeat, 241; French reenforcements, 329, 348, 359; possible naval actions, 479.

West Point and Highlands, N. Y., fires, inquiry, 8, 17; construction of works, delay, 104, 182; possible British designs against, 131–133, 193, 332, 364, 494, 496, 500, 505, 510; clothing distribution, 133; reenforcement, 181, 182, 193; scarcity, emergent supply of provisions, 193, 198, 308, 333, 406, 413, 429, 430, 432, 463–465, 472, 509; interception of cattle for main camp, 309, 327. *See also* Hudson River.

Whipping, as army punishment, 3; summary, for straggling, 504.

White, *Col.* Anthony Walton, at court-martial, 161.

White Plains, N. Y. *See* Neutral Ground.

Whitehead, Timothy, headquarters at house, 491.

Whitney, James, pardon, 3.

Wilds, Philip, pardon, 3.

Wilkinson, James, letter to, 38; clothing for 1780 campaign, 38.

Willett, *Lieut. Col.* Marinus, letter to, 40; intelligence, 40–42; soldier on detail, 162; brigaded, 190; officer of the day, 339, 395; at court-martial, 401, 448; maneuvers, 423, 433; hut, 448; regimental command, 450.

Williams, Jonathan, letter to, 267; gift of wine, 267.

Williams, *Col.* Otho Holland, letter to, 141; acting adjutant general, commended, 146, 249; at court-martial, 161; countersign honoring, 249.

Wilmington, Del., militia rendezvous, 470*n*.

Winder, *Maj.* Levin, letter to, 40; and British activity, 40.

Windsor, Conn., winter quarters, 18*n*.

Wine, for headquarters, 267, 352.

Winter. *See* Weather.

Winter quarters, damp huts, 16; state act locating, 18; approach of Spring and camp police, 95; camp roads, 95; British plans against main cantonment, 105–108, 130, 145, 147, 148; leaving huts undamaged, 261; officers' assembly, 261*n*; maneuvers before La Luzerne, 297; airing huts, 337; guards, 346; meat famine and mutiny, relief, 424–432; broken up, 486; rounding up stragglers and guards, 489. *See also* Advanced line; General orders; Guards; West Point.

Wood, *Col.* James, pardon of deserter, 236*n*; letters to, 237, 290; Convention troops officers, 238; irregular court-martial, 290.

Woodford, *Gen.* William, at Charleston, 334, 378; letter to, 378.

Woodruff, Isaac, charges against officer, 340; letter to, 340.

Wright, *Lieut.* Anthony, court-martial, cashiered, 149, 161, 162.

Wyllys, *Col.* Samuel, brigaded, 190; light corps command, 191.

Wyoming, Pa., French mast cutters, 11; raid, 228; specific supplies, 253.

Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, material from, 229*n*.

York, Pa., specific supplies, 253.

Young, *Capt.-Lieut.* Guy, court-martial, 89; service, 89*n*.

Youngs House, N. Y., British raid, 9*n*.

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